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September 6-12, 2017



COVER ART

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Disaster Dogs and Catastrophe Cats

BY SEAN NELSON

When your eyes are bursting with images of terrible suffering, such as the ones that have been filling timelines and news feeds since Hurricane Harvey made landfall, the urgent moral question is: How can I help right now?

One way, devised by the Humane Society of the United States in conjunction with local partner shelters like PAWS and Seattle Humane, is to make a bit of room for animals displaced by the flooding.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, August 30, a 12-seat, twin-engine Fairchild jet full of 38 dogs arrived at Signature Flight Support, a boutique airport at Boeing Field usually used to service small luxury airplanes for charter and business use.

Out on the tarmac, a small phalanx of local press had gathered to shoot photos and video of crates being loaded off the plane and into a van, a sprinter, and a small RV waiting to take them to local pet rescues where the dogs would be assessed by vets and animal behaviorists before being offered for adoption.

The dogs came from shelters in San Antonio and Dallas, both about 200 miles away from Houston. The idea is to make room at those locations so animals that had been occupying Houston rescues before the storm can be transported there, which would make more room at Houston shelters for pets dislocated by the recent flooding.

While we waited for the plane, one of the van drivers told me that some of the dogs who were coming from San Antonio had been in the shelter since last October, with little hope before coming to Seattle of ever being adopted. "This is like a lottery ticket for them," she said with a laugh.

The air transport was organized by Wings of Rescue, a five-year-old volunteer animal advocacy group that "flies endangered pets from high-intake and/or high-kill shelters to no-kill shelters." To date, the organization claims to have rescued 26,000 pets.

About half the dogs were taken to Seattle Humane's new \$30 million facility in Bellevue, and the other half to the PAWS compound in Lynnwood. The next morning, after word of the rescue operation had spread and the dogs' arrival had been broadcast on TV news, there was a "huge surge" of interest in fostering and adopting these animals.

"Phones, e-mails, lobby all inundated," said Laura Follis, PAWS marketing and communications director. She wasn't exaggerating. By noon, the PAWS parking lot was full and a line of applicants stretched out the door.

It's not an uncommon response to natural disasters, apparently. I've often heard about the proliferation of "Katrina dogs" in Seattle from friends who work in animal rescue. An estimated 250,000 animals were killed in the flooding of New Orleans in 2005.

I walked through the shelter, where each

dog had its own little cell, and I felt the familiar pang of wishing I could take every one of them home with me. I remembered the wrenching *Chicago Tribune* photos from Houston—the man reaching for a pole while his dog tries to swim to him, the angry orange cat up to its neck in water, the older man sobbing as he clutches his dog Otis for dear life—and fought down the lump that always rises in my throat when I see pets no one wants.

That won't be the case for this first batch of transplants. Follis was certain that all of the dogs that arrived last Wednesday would be adopted before the weekend was over.



ADOPT A rescue from Texas.

But the effort is ongoing, and will continue, possibly for years. On September 1, they delivered 20 cats, also from Texas shelters, to Paine Field in Everett. Another 20 dogs arrived on September 3. More will arrive this week. The numbers sound small in comparison to the vastness of the devastation and the overwhelming needs of so many people in the Houston area. But what's that expression about ports and storms?

"We are an animal shelter," Follis said. "So that is what we do—we help animals. But by helping animals, we also help people. By getting the homeless animals out of the shelters and making space for pets displaced by Harvey, we are giving their owners peace of mind knowing their companions are safe."

That's not nothing. Ask any pet owner what or whom they would save first in the event their home was flooded with five feet of water.

But it's a mistake to think of the human and animal relief efforts as separate. Even if your compassion doesn't extend to the animals themselves—which I suppose is valid, technically—you need only look at those pictures to see that the bond between pets and their owners runs deeper than floodwaters.

Acknowledging the power and validity of other people's love may not seem like much in these increasingly grim times, but it's a good way to help, right now and always. ■

More information about fostering and adoption is available at PAWS.org, seattlehumane.org, and many other local animal rescues.

Guest Editorial

I DIDN'T KILL YOUR STUPID CAT, AND I AM INSULTED BY THE INSINUATION

BY PHILLIP THE COYOTE

Dear Seattle: Look, I get it. You love cats. In fact you love them sooooo much, you let them run around outdoors so they can pick up diseases (including feline leukemia) and parasites (ear mites and ringworm), drink antifreeze, or get eaten by any number of predators.

Yeah, your love for these animals is *really* inspiring. (That's *sarcasm*, if you couldn't tell.)

But I'm not here to educate you on animal cruelty; I'm here to say that I didn't kill your stupid cat. And frankly? I'm insulted by the insinuation!

Every time one of your idiot cats disappears, you blame us coyotes—even if they're hit by a car, move in with a different human (because you fucking suck), or fall in love and run off with a stray, as in the case of Disney's *The Aristocats*.

Do coyotes occasionally eat felines? OF COURSE, YOU FUCKING DOLT. But 90 percent of the time, we eat plants, berries, and, IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, small rodents such as mice and rats.

Oh, what's this? No tears for the *rats* I eat? (Again, I'm being sarcastic... OR AM I NOT ALLOWED TO DO THAT, EITHER?)

For decades, coyotes have been the targets of widespread smear campaigns (the Wile E. Coyote and Road Runner cartoon being only one example). Today this disinformation continues on social media, and in particular the NextDoor website, where Kirkland resident Margaret Jenson wrote the following hysterical missive:

A coyote ate my cat, Miss Puffles! Please, please, PLEASE bring your cats in at night, because this coyote



situation is out of control! Also are you missing a bicycle? Because I saw the neighborhood homeless person ride by on a bike I didn't recognize.

OMIGOD, Margaret Jenson is the worst!

And just so we're clear: Yes, I ate Miss Puffles. She was so stupid, she practically walked right into my mouth. But does this mean Margaret Jenson and her ilk can blame coyotes for eating their cats without a scrap of proof? I've killed and eaten 12... maybe 15... cats total in my life. And yet you blame me for the deaths of *hundreds*?

This is species-ism, plain and simple! I (probably, statistically speaking) did not eat your cat, and your constant insinuations that I did are not only insulting but also LEGALLY ACTIONABLE.

Stop this anti-coyote misinformation campaign, or I will be forced to take drastic action. (On your cat's ass. Just kidding. Not really.) ■

I, ANONYMOUS

To submit an unsigned confession or accusation, send an e-mail to ianonymous@thestranger.com. Please remember to change the names of the innocent and guilty.

TRASH TALK

I'm more and more appalled at the recycling habits of my apartment neighbors. I can tell they haven't spent ANY time reading the recycling guidelines. No, used pizza boxes don't go in recycling—they go in compost. And why does the recycling bin smell of cigarette butts? Those go in the garbage. I just found a perfectly decent cutting board in the recycling bin—that should go to Goodwill. You leave a couch that could have been donated to be an eyesore on the curb and get rained on for two months, becoming worthless? What's wrong with you?! Don't you care about the earth and making use of our dwindling resources? Make reading the recycling guidelines an IMMEDIATE priority and quit leaving your unwanted furniture on the corner.

—Anonymous



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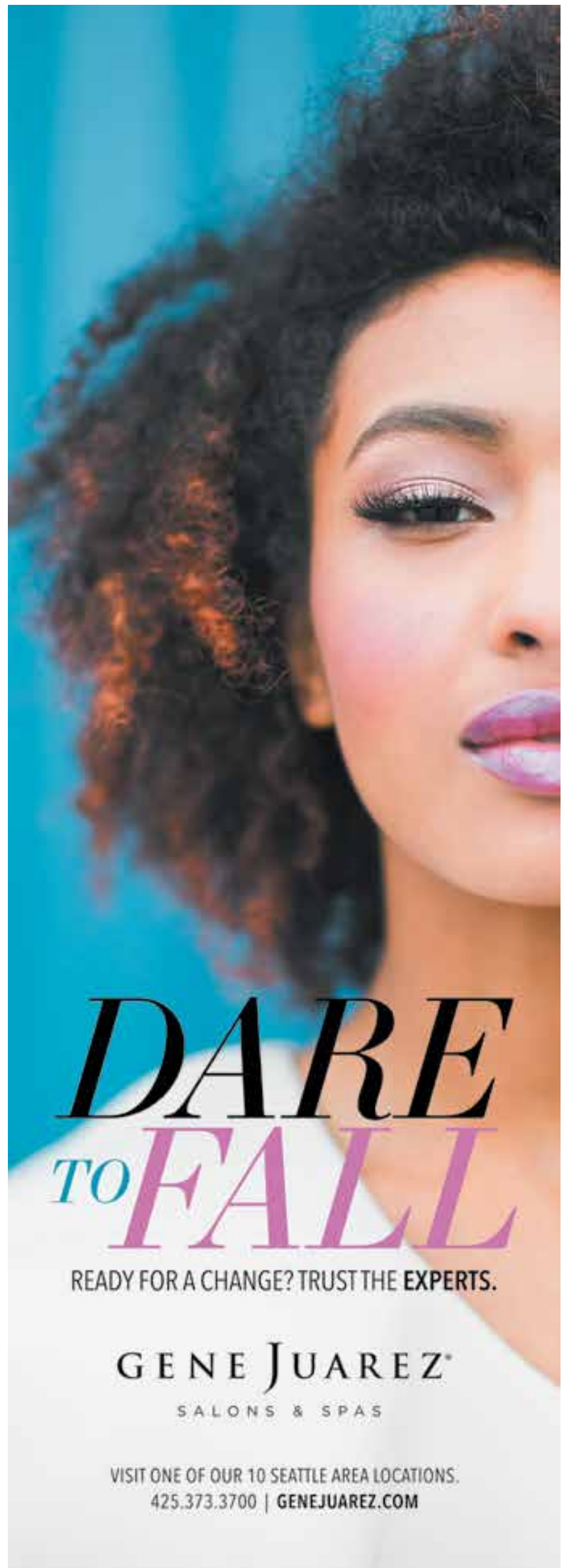
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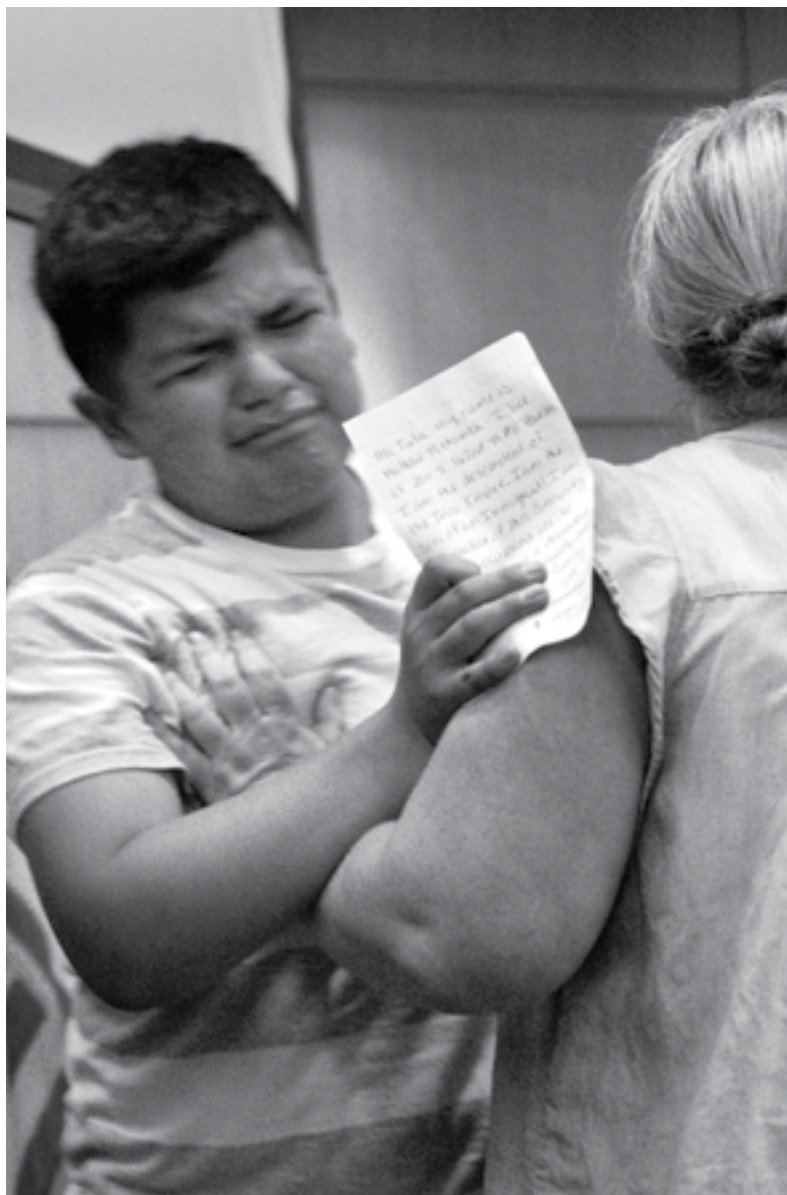
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RYAN T. BELL

TEARS Matthew Fichamba, 14, prepared to give a speech on the importance of protecting immigrants like his father during public comment at an August 7 Burien City Council meeting, but became too emotional to continue reading.

SANCTUARY Immigrants hold signs at an August 7 Burien City Council meeting (upper right).

BURIEN A view of Mount Rainier from Burien, where quinceañera shops outnumber Starbucks franchises (lower right).



RYAN T. BELL



RAMON DOMPOR

CREEP

Trump's Nativist Politics Are Encroaching on the Seattle Suburbs

BY SYDNEY BROWNSTONE

The RV in Hugo Garcia's neighborhood still bears faint traces of spray paint. Someone tried to scrub it clean, but the words left behind a rust-colored stain: "FUCKING MEXICANS."

Garcia had to see the RV for himself to believe it—and when he did, he was shocked. He grew up in the Seattle suburb of Burien and speaks of his hometown with unabashed boosterism. Garcia's father worked long hours in the community's famed Mexican restaurant industry, a fact that swells his sense of civic pride. Hugo Garcia and his two brothers stayed in the area; one became an elementary school teacher, and the other two went to work for community development nonprofits.

"I want people to be aware: This is happening in a city 20 minutes from downtown Seattle," Garcia said.

Shortly after Trump's inauguration, some of Garcia's friends—people he goes to Sounders games with—stayed home because they were afraid of being picked up by immigration agents. Some were too afraid to go to the grocery store. Then Garcia heard a story from his brother, a fourth-grade teacher who sits with his students at lunch.

"One of his 9-year-old students told him, 'I'm not worried for me, but I'm worried they'll take my mom away,' Garcia remembered. "I'm having a hard time as a 37-year-old man going through this, but kids, I have no idea how it's impacting them psychologically."

He hadn't participated in local activism before this. But seeing the hateful graffiti on the RV and hearing stories about terrified children changed that. Garcia began to realize that the Burien he lived in—the one with more quinceañera shops per capita than Starbucks franchises—maybe wasn't the one he thought he knew.

■ ■ ■

Burien is a small city of 50,000 people sandwiched between Puget Sound and Sea-Tac International Airport. The median household income is \$53,712, but the poverty rate is 18.2 percent. The area hosted white settlers in the mid-1800s, but only became formally incorporated in 1993, when communities living near the airport wanted a bigger say in its impacts on local residents. Ask any Burienite what comes to mind when they hear "old Burien," and they'll say "bedroom community," meaning an opportunity for Boeing workers or Seattle commuters to have a home with plenty of space in the burbs.

But for decades before the city's incorporation, Burien also drew immigrants from Cuautla, Mexico, who helped kick-start the entire region's Mexican restaurant industry. The school district—41 percent Latino—is one of the most diverse in the state. And for decades, the city has drawn immigrants from El Salvador, Guatemala, and elsewhere who have launched pupuserias and specialty bakeries.

As the city reflects the nation's shifting demographics, it has also become a tiny microcosm of national politics. Trump's nativist politics have emboldened local city council candidates who scapegoat undocumented immigrants in an imagined crime wave. At the same time, and for the first time, Latino Burienites are beginning to demand better political representation and are running for office.

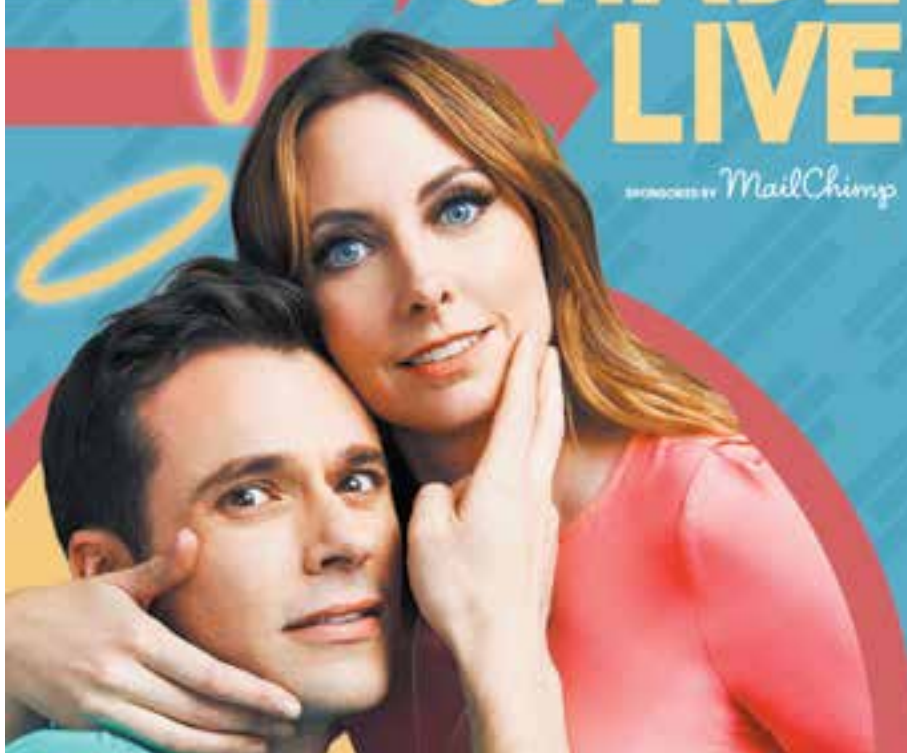
The week before the spray paint incident, the Burien City Council passed an ordinance protecting undocumented residents from city employees asking about their immigration status and religious affiliation. Latino residents proposed the ordinance as a response to President Donald Trump's directive to deputize local police forces in a sweeping immigration crackdown, as well as his consideration of a database to keep track of Muslim citizens.

But the ordinance met resistance. It took two attempts to finally pass the council, and in its final form, the term "sanctuary" had been removed. ►

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◀ More recently, the council decided to undo its earlier ordinance by putting those same protections for undocumented residents and religious minorities to a vote on the November ballot. A petition from Seattle organization Respect Washington, which is primarily funded by an anti-immigrant group that publishes white-nationalist literature, gathered just enough signatures to push the repeal vote forward.

Burienites who want to get rid of protections for undocumented immigrants and religious minorities will also have the chance in November to elect local lawmakers who share their politics. A local group that calls itself "Burien Proud, Burien First" has organized a slate of white candidates who claim to be tough on crime. One of the most vocal among them

claimed he saw them the previous year.) And in early August, Burien Proud, Burien First users started linking the June rape to the city's sanctuary city ordinance. In that Facebook group, Burien City Council member Debi Wagner, who is currently running for reelection on the Burien First slate, claimed that she believed the alleged rapist was likely a repeat offender. "The viciousness of this crime leads me to believe this is not his first," she wrote. "Problem with the entire system is sanctuaries not only draw people of unknown character and background, they shelter them."

Fears of increased crime aren't based in reality. In Burien, felony crimes per capita have fluctuated over the last five years as the population has grown. The crime rate in 2016 was slightly lower than it was in 2012, and

TRUMPIAN FEARMONGERING OVER IMMIGRANT CRIME HAS BECOME A COMMON TACTIC FOR POLITICIANS.

is beauty salon owner Darla Green, a former failed candidate for city council who has gained popularity in her role as a crusader against progressive causes and a mythical "alt-left."

Before she became the face of Burien Proud, Burien First, Green made her name as an anti-panhandling activist. Green backed an ordinance in 2015 that would have originally criminalized "bodily hygiene or scent that is unreasonably offensive to others." That same year, Green ran for city council, but lost by a 189-vote margin. This year, Green made it through the primary against longtime incumbent Nancy Tosta with the majority of the vote.

Green recently went on a right-wing radio program to share the police report details of a brutal rape allegedly committed by a recipient of the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in June. For proponents of the sanctuary city repeal effort, Trumpian fearmongering over immigrant crime has become a common tactic: Craig Keller, the organizer of the Respect Washington repeal petition and a former Republican congressional candidate, has also appeared in front of the Burien City Council to share grisly details of the same rape. Fox News quickly picked up the story and sent Bill O'Reilly protégé Jesse Watters to interview Keller and Latino city council candidate Pedro Olguin about the rape. Despite a total lack of evidence tying immigrants in Burien to increased crime, the rape became a reference point for "law and order" arguments. (In the same segment, Watters mispronounced "Burien" and interviewed tourists near the Statue of Liberty about whether immigrants should have to know English before they arrive.)

Shortly after Trump's inauguration and the passage of Burien's sanctuary ordinance, another Burien resident named David White took to a hyperlocal blog's Facebook page to suggest that the Burien City Council deserved to suffer violence at the hands of MS-13, the deadly international gang launched in Los Angeles. In another comment, White suggested that "we can hire the latin gangs" to visit Nancy Tosta, the incumbent city council member later challenged by Darla Green. A police officer visited White's home, saying he had a right to protest but should avoid threatening speech. White later posted video of the encounter online, claiming to be the victim of harassment.

Burienites fearful of Muslims and immigrants continue to find people who agree with them online. Two days after the Fourth of July, one resident posted on the "Take Back Burien" Facebook group about a rumor she heard that people waving ISIS flags marched in the Independence Day Parade. (No photos of the alleged incident surfaced; one of the people who reported seeing a group waving ISIS flags

slightly higher than it was in 2015. "Crime goes up and down, as you can see from the statistics," King County sheriff John Urquhart, who does not support the effort to repeal Burien's sanctuary ordinance, said by e-mail.

It doesn't help that Burien is a news desert. There aren't any full-time reporters at local newspapers covering the city beat. Mellow DeTray, a 10-year Burien resident, recently started a website (BurienCity.com) intended to give voters more information on their local candidates. DeTray also set out to find if she could corroborate Burien Proud, Burien First candidates' claims that crime was increasing. Instead, DeTray concluded that there was no crime epidemic after all.

"There's such division, and there's such false information and misunderstanding of what's really going on," DeTray said.

■■■

Respect Washington, the group behind Burien's anti-sanctuary drive, gets most of its funding from an organization in Michigan called US Inc.

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) considers US Inc. an anti-immigrant hate group, taking note of racist literature printed in its flagship publication, *The Social Contract*.

This summer, *The Social Contract* ran a series of articles on immigrants, one of which unjustifiably claimed that Latino immigrants are genetically predisposed to drunk driving. The article called them "invaders" and suggested that, eventually, the purported problem would be fixed by natural selection.

KC McAlpin, the executive director of US Inc., defended the article by saying that its author cited research from the National Institutes of Health and Harvard Medical School. (Neither of these sources concluded that racial genetics—a concept that, on its own, is challenged by scientists today—are to blame for drunk driving among Latinos.) As for the ties to white nationalism, "US Inc. is completely opposed to any system of immigration based on race or national origin," McAlpin wrote by e-mail.

According to Heidi Beirich, director of the SPLC's Intelligence Project, US Inc. founder John Tanton is "without a doubt, a white nationalist." His organizations have been involved in efforts to repeal sanctuary city statutes in not only Burien, but also Spokane and in the state of Oregon. In Arizona and Tennessee, Tanton has funded efforts to pass and defend "English only" laws. He helped move forward the Prop 187 campaign in California in the 1990s, a ballot measure that attempted to prevent undocumented residents from attending public school or accessing health care,

as well as HB 56 in Alabama, which would have encouraged police officers who suspected people of being immigrants to stop those people and ask about their immigration status.

"Usually he gives money to an organization, and then that organization pursues different kinds of efforts to further whatever he thinks will keep America white," Beirich said.

Nevertheless, the repeal effort's white-nationalist ties don't appear to alarm the majority of Burien's city council.

When I asked each council member for comment on the funding of Respect Washington, only four of the seven council members responded. (Burien's mayor, also included on the city council, did not respond.) One declined to comment, two condemned hate speech, and one—a council member who actually signed the petition to put the repeal on the ballot—appeared to scoff at the SPLC's designation of Tanton, who has expressed support for eugenics, as a racist.

"What's your definition of a racist?" Council Member Debi Wagner wrote. "I see Trenton [sic] is described as a racist. Is that because he is against illegal immigration or is there something else?"

I sent Wagner a list of citations on Tanton, including a *New York Times* story that quoted one of Tanton's letters describing his belief in "a European-American majority," but I never heard back.

Respect Washington's Craig Keller, however, has praised Tanton's work as a "good and honest cause."

"Every public service organization such as Respect Washington should be so fortunate to receive financial support from this defender of truth and justice for all," Keller told the *Spokesman Review* newspaper.



In 2013, a group of Dutch researchers decided to look into the electoral geography behind the rise of the hard-right nationalist Partij Voor de Vrijheid (PVV), or Party for Freedom, in the Netherlands. The PVV, which believes that Judeo-Christian theology should be the dominant belief system and that immigration from Muslim-majority countries should be stopped, has called for banning the Quran and closing all Dutch mosques. It started out as a minority in 2006, but by 2010, it had gained the third largest number of votes in the Netherlands' parliamentary system. In 2014, the PVV once again came in third for the Netherlands' delegation in the European Parliament election.

The Dutch researchers found that most of the support for the right-wing faction came from the suburbs. This was noteworthy, considering the fact that so little research existed on the middle class surrounding the cities. But the Dutch researchers concluded that voter demographics couldn't explain the phenomenon alone. Instead, they offered up a number of other explanations, one of them being that "nostalgia" could be used as a sort of defense mechanism against social and cultural change.

Mellow DeTray, the founder of Burien City.com, describes the motivation for Burien's sanctuary city repeal in similar terms.

"It's like an us versus them—or a good old days—kind of thing," she said. "Like, 'Don't you want Burien to go back to what it used to be?'"

The numbers show that Burien is, indeed, changing. Since the city's incorporation in 1993, it's grown nearly 50 percent. Burien has also incorporated additional parts of King County since its conception, but voters rejected annexing White Center, a minority-majority city of 14,000. According to the 2010 Census, 40 percent of the Burien population is now nonwhite, with Latinos making up 25 percent of the overall population.

But as much as nostalgia may be factoring into the rise of anti-immigrant sentiment in

the Seattle suburbs, historical records show that the backward-looking idea of Burien as an ethnically homogenous bedroom community is mostly fiction.

In *Our Burien*, a collection of early Burien settlers' memories, letters, and newspaper clippings by author Esther Balzarini, documents show that early Burien settlers referred to themselves as "emigrants" who infringed on Native territory. The first settler noted in *Our Burien* was Mike Kelly, an immigrant from Ireland, and the city itself is named for Gottlieb Boorien, who moved to the area with his family from Germany. Esther Balzarini married the son of Louis Balzarini, an immigrant from Italy who additionally made up one of Burien's early founding families.



On a recent Tuesday night in downtown Burien, Hugo Garcia and another Burien activist named Roxana Pardo Garcia (no relation to Hugo Garcia) took me on a tour of their city. Roxana Pardo Garcia showed me where her immigrant father opened up a shop that sold Selena cassettes. Both Garcias point out that El Rinconsito, the first well-known taqueria in King County and now a major chain, opened up business in Burien in 1997. Down the street used to be a panaderia, or bakery, and in neighboring White Center, an El Salvadorian opened up the region's first pupuseria. Farmworkers, Roxana Pardo Garcia remembered, would travel all the way to the area just to eat there.

"People claim that we're not from Burien, when in fact a lot of our families have been here for years," Roxana Pardo Garcia said. Garcia grew up in Burien, graduated from Highline High School, and attended the University of Washington before coming back to Burien to work for the South King Council of Human Services and volunteer at Para Los Niños, an organization that serves local immigrant families.

"We're going through a growth spurt," Garcia continued. "A political one, an economic one, and a sociocultural one. And the people who have traditionally held power are starting to feel that growth spurt and they're thinking it's a negative thing because it'll displace their power."

It's true that candidates from Burien's Spanish-speaking communities are newly seeking political power. Political tensions in South King County have grown as a response to first-time candidates of color, said Stacia Jenkins, former Normandy Park City Council member and chair of the 33rd District Democrats.

"We have people running for office that in the past have not taken on the challenge of community leadership at this scale," Jenkins said. "And the way that threatens people would already be significant, but now the threat is characterized by these fears that are completely unfounded because of the national rhetoric."

Jenkins's district is unique in that it's one of the only minority-majority districts in Washington State. But the six city councils that make up that district are majority white, and always have been. This year, for the first time, Latino candidates like Jimmy Matta are running for city council to represent communities that have lived in South King County for generations.

Matta, a 41-year-old labor leader and co-owner of a general contracting firm who has lived in Burien for 20 years, said that before this year, he had never once considered going into politics. But like Hugo Garcia, his mind changed in early January. Matta had gone shopping at the local Safeway when a man confronted him and said, "That's right, your president's gone. You're going back home."

"It just hit me," Matta remembered. "I couldn't say anything."

The man who confronted Matta was asked to leave, and when Matta walked outside, he ►



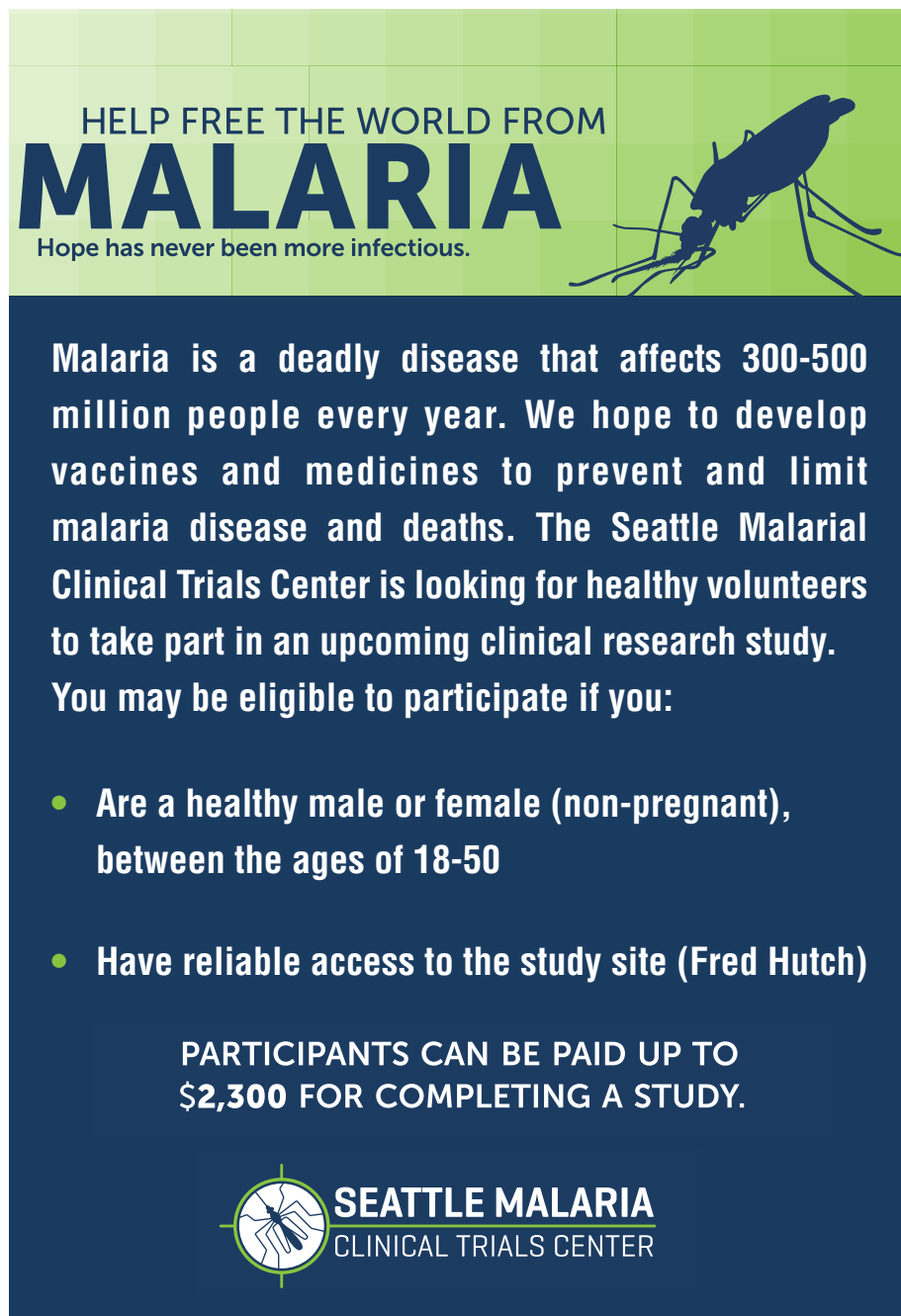
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◀ was surprised to see him get into the driver's seat of an expensive car. "I was shocked," he said. "And then I started hearing the rhetoric, 'We're going to make this city safe again.'"

Matta said he's running for office now to show the younger generation that people with brown skin can push back against that kind of rhetoric. "I'd like to be able to say, 'Hey, it's time for the black, the white, the Latino, the Asian voters to vote,'" Matta said. "To say, 'We're not going to stand for hatred in this country. We're not turning back.'"

Matta grew up as the son of farmworkers in a tiny Eastern Washington agricultural community. As a kid, he was used to getting called racial slurs like "burrito boy," "spic," and "beaner." Today, Matta says those words can't hurt him. But it's not his own safety he's worried about.

"I think what got me the most is that I came back and shared that story with my family," Matta said. "And it shakes me because I didn't think my kids would have to live through this."

Lupita Torrez, the executive director of local nonprofit Para Los Niños, said that at the beginning of the year, several of the families she worked with stopped showing up to her organization's programming.

"When Trump took his position as president, we had kids crying and we had families who didn't want to go outside because they were so afraid that Immigration was going to take them," Torrez remembered.

Torrez witnessed the effects of increased Immigration roundups up close. One of the families she worked with, she told me, had a father who was deported back to Mexico and killed himself after being separated from his family.

Slowly, within months of the chaos of the new presidency, Torrez said, Para Los Niños and other organizations began to win back trust from the immigrant communities they served. Attendance improved. But then the petition drive to repeal the city's protections for undocumented residents drew renewed scrutiny of immigrants.

Some people, out of fear of contact with Immigration officials, are now choosing to not renew their food stamps. Torrez herself has lived in Burien for 20 years, and chose to raise her children here because the city was once so welcoming. But now things have gotten ugly.

"When people are terrorized, it's really hard to organize," Torrez said. "How can you organize when people cannot move from their house? And nobody can blame them. It's their lives, it's their family, it's everything."

■■■

For Hugo Garcia, the hardest part of what's going on in his hometown isn't being confronted with the overt racism. It's being confronted with ambivalence.

"I get a lot of people online who say, 'We support you.' But why aren't there more of us at a city council meeting?" Garcia asked. "To me, it feels like there's 15 of us when there should be thousands of us. Why isn't it as big a deal as it should be?"

Months before the white-nationalist violence in Charlottesville, the RV wasn't the only hate crime that struck Burien. A week before the country elected Trump as its president, someone set fire to a Burien man's cars and wrote "Jews die" on the same Jewish family's garage.

But for Garcia, the hate crimes remain a small, ugly footnote in the history of his hometown. While we were driving around Burien in his car full of Sounders fan gear, most of Garcia's tour consisted of fond memories from his childhood here. When I asked him why he and his brothers have chosen to stay and invest in this place, Garcia paused: "Pride." ■



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WEED



MIKE FORCE

The NFL Should Change Its Rules About Players Smoking Pot

BY LESTER BLACK

This Sunday afternoon, Seattle will quietly become a ghost town. For a few hours, the city's attention will be transfixed on dozens of massive men repeatedly colliding with each other.

After a few hours of brutal violence, one team will win, Seahawks fans will turn off their televisions, and the players will limp off the field and into the care of NFL trainers, who will hand out prescription painkillers. A recent federal lawsuit alleges that NFL teams violate laws in the way they dispense painkillers, though the NFL denies that.

The dangers of both the injuries and the drugs prescribed to treat them are well documented—a recent study found that out of 111 former NFL players, 110 had signs of a degenerative brain disease called chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), and NFL players have been found to abuse opioids at four times the national average—but the NFL bans what many players say is one of the best tools in mitigating the health effects of playing football.

That tool is pot. It can be useful in fighting the effects of injuries and it's legal in our state, but the National Football League's policies prevent football players from using any of it.

So even though there are a dozen pot stores within a mile of CenturyLink Field, no Seahawk can manage his pain by using pot. That's a travesty that should be changed. Paul Allen, Microsoft cofounder and owner of the Seahawks, didn't return a request for comment for this story. I would have asked him if he thought his right to smoke pot should be extended to the men destroying their bodies every Sunday for his team.

But while I couldn't find a billionaire to talk to, I did speak with Eben Britton, a former NFL offensive lineman who spent six years getting beat up in the league. After a couple years of being on the NFL's steady routine of powerful anti-inflammatory and opioid drugs, he started to mix in some cannabis and immediately saw its benefits.

"I was tired of taking pills; they really

depleted me. I tried some cannabis, and I felt as though it did what I wanted the pills to do, which was make me feel at home in a body in pain, help me feel my feet on the ground, connect me into my nervous system, and enable me to produce at a really high level," Britton said.

Britton isn't the only NFL player to advocate for allowing players to use cannabis. Their message is starting to have an effect on the league. Dr. Allen Sills, the NFL's chief medical officer, told the *Washington Post* that it was "really important" for the league to study if cannabis could be used as an effective pain-management tool.

The NFL players' union has reportedly been studying how cannabis can help its members, and the *Washington Post* reported in July that the NFL itself has reached out to study the issue together with the union.

And at least one of the league's owners has said that players should be allowed to use cannabis.

The players' union is starting to negotiate a new contract with the league's owners—the current contract is up in 2020—and many people think removing cannabis from the list of banned substances might be worked into the new deal. Britton thinks it won't be too long before the league relaxes its ban on pot.

"I think they've got to do something in the next few years to show that they actually give a shit about the players," Britton said.

This is not a first-world problem of a professional football player not being able to smoke pot. These people deal with the effects of playing football long after you turn off your television this Sunday.

"I think a lot of fans probably think that most guys just retire on an island somewhere, with mountains of money and everything they've ever dreamed of," Britton said. "In most cases, the opposite is true. A lot of guys are really struggling, are really in a bad state financially and psychologically."

Pot won't cure all of the damage from playing professional football, but allowing players to use it without fear of suspension would help. ■

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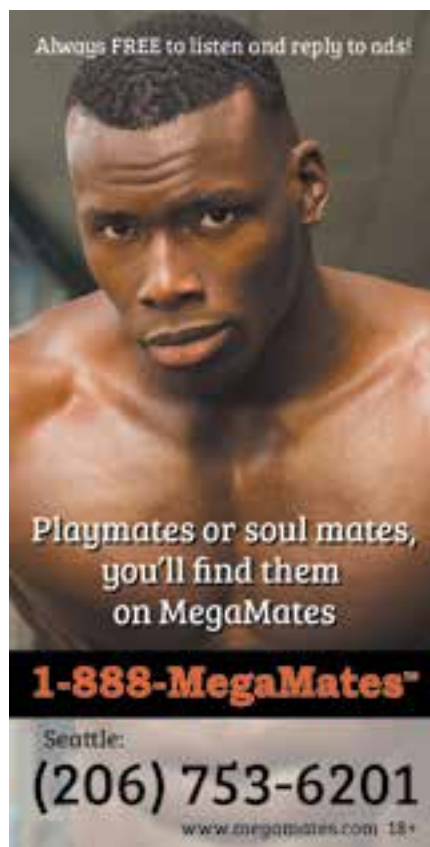
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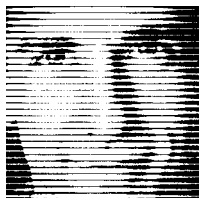
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SAVAGE LOVE

Stranger Things BY DAN SAVAGE

I'm a lady considering taking on a foot fetishist as a slave. He would do chores around my house, including cleaning and laundry, and give foot rubs and pedicures in exchange for getting to worship and jack off to my model-perfect feet when I've decided he's earned it. Am I morally obligated to tell my roommates? Technically the guy would be in their common space too. I will fully vet him with references and meet him in a neutral location at least once—and anything else you might suggest I do for security's sake. Though my roommates are not what you would call conservative, I'm not sure they'd understand this kind of arrangement. I would have my slave come over when no one is around, and then my roommates could come home to a sparkly clean common area! My slave would never have access to their personal spaces, nor would I leave him alone in any area of our home until a strong bond of trust had been established. No harm, no foul? Or am I crossing a line?

Man Into Cleaning A Shared Apartment



JOE NEWTON

ous GF. Congrats. If she doesn't have an equally adventurous BF, here's hoping she finds one.

My 7-year-old son started getting really into gauze, splints, and bandages when he was 3, and by the time he was 4, it became clearly sexualized.

He gets a boner when he plays "broken bone" or just looks at bandages, and he has expressed how much he loves to touch his penis when he does this. My husband and I (both happily vanilla) have been accepting and casual about this. We've provided him with a stash of "supplies," taught him the concept of privacy and alone time, and frequently remind him to never wrap bandages around his head or neck. Is it normal to be so kinky at such a young age? I know kinks generally develop from childhood associations. When he was 2, he had surgery to correct a common issue on his groin. Might that have sparked this? I want my son to grow up with a healthy and positive sexuality. Are we doing him a favor or a disservice by supplying him with materials, freedom, and privacy to engage in a kink so young?

Boy Always Needing "Doctoring" And Getting Edgier

Your son's behavior isn't *that* abnormal, BANDAGE. It's standard for kids, even very young kids, to touch their genitals—in public, where it can be a problem, or in private, where it should never be a problem. And lord knows kids obsess about the strangest shit. (What is the deal with dinosaurs, anyway?) Right now your son is obsessed with bandages and splints and gauze, his interests aren't purely intellectual, and it's easy to see a possible link between his experience with bandages and gauze in his swimsuit area and his obsession.

None of this means your son is definitely going to be kinky when he grows up, BANDAGE—not that there's anything wrong with being kinky when you grow up. There are lots of happy, healthy kinksters out there, and your kid could be one of them when he grows up. But it's too early to tell, and so long as his interests aren't complicating his life (he's not behaving inappropriately with friends or at school), your son's whatever-this-is will become less of your concern over time and ultimately it will be none of your business.

In the meantime, you don't wanna slap a "so kinky" label on a 7-year-old. (If he were to overhear you using that term to describe him, does he have the computer skills to google it himself?) But you're doing everything right otherwise. You aren't shaming your son, you aren't making bandages and gauze and splints more alluring by denying him access to them, you are teaching him important lessons about privacy and what needs to be reserved for "alone time."

You ask if it's normal to be "so kinky" at such a young age. Probably not—but so what? According to science, most adults have paraphilias, aka "non-normative sexual desires and interests." That means kinks are normal—at least for grown-ups—so even if your son isn't normal *now*, BANDAGE, he'll be normal *someday*. Most kinksters can point to things in their childhood that seemed to foreshadow their adult interests in bandages/bondage/balloons/whatever. Author, journalist, and spanking fetishist Jillian Keenan (*Sex with Shakespeare*) was fascinated by spanking when she was your son's age; Keenan likes to say she was conscious of her kink orientation before she knew anything about her sexual orientation. So while your son's behavior may not be "normal" for a kid who grows up to be vanilla, it would be "normal" for someone who grows up to be kinky. ■

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4. Viagra Prescribing Information, Revised January 2010. 5. Cialis Prescribing Information, Revised October 2011. 6. Levitra Prescribing Information, Revised November 2011. 8. Penile Prosthesis. <http://www.essm.org/society/esham/malesd/oraltreatments/penileprosthesis.html>. European Society for Sexual Medicine (ESSM) Website. Downloaded January 1, 2013.

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Did she ask you to do something with this info? Did your girlfriend say, "Hey, I used to pee on my ex—now go make me a dream catcher with that news, would you?" Your GF got a little kinky with an ex, most likely at the ex's request, and so what? If piss isn't something you're into, DRIP, don't obsess on the distressing-to-you details and focus instead on the big picture: You've got an adventur-

Dude's Relationship In Peril

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THINGS TO DO ARTS & CULTURE

All the Events *The Stranger* Suggests This Week

Find the complete calendar of things to do in Seattle at strangerthingstodo.com [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) Stranger Things To Do



Dragon Lady
Through Oct 1 at Jones Playhouse

PERFORMANCE

Dragon Lady

DON'T MISS Sara Porkalob has been completely overhauling this show about her badass Filipino gangster grandma for a couple years. It began as a solo show at the Fringe Festival, morphed into a more refined solo show at Theater Off Jackson, transformed into a dinner theater musical at Cafe Nordo, and is now a full-fledged musical with a live band and a tighter book. If you have yet to check out any of *Dragon Lady's* many iterations, this is the one to see. Intiman artistic director Andrew Russell, who is leaving us soon, will direct. (Jones Playhouse, Wed-Sun, \$20-\$50, through Oct 1) **RICH SMITH**

We also recommend...

Base Occasional: Base: Experimental Arts + Space, Sept 6-7, 8 pm, \$10-\$20
Blues for Mister Charlie: Emerald City Bible Fellowship, Wed-Sun, pay what you can, through Sept 17
The Construction Zone: ACT Theatre, Fri 7:30 pm, \$10, through Sept 29
The Future Is 0: Northwest Film Forum, Sept 8-9, 8 pm, \$16
HERON Ensemble: The Earth Shakes: 18th & Union, Fri-Sat & Mon, \$15, through Sept 16
John Keister: Living & Dying in Seattle: Benaroya Hall, Sat Sept 9, 7 pm, \$25-\$30
King of the Yees: ACT Theatre, Fri-Sat & Tues, \$20-\$40, through Oct 1
Mrs. Bave Presents the Pig War: Firehouse Performing Arts Center, Bellingham, Fri-Sun 7:30 pm, \$15, through Sept 17
The Odyssey: Seattle Repertory Theatre, Sept 8-10, free

The Seagull: Secret Location, Sept 8-11, 7 pm, pay what you can (\$10-\$20)
Something Rotten!: The 5th Avenue Theatre, Tues, \$29-\$101, through Oct 1
The Sound of Music: Paramount Theatre, Sept 6-11, \$30-\$125
The Tempest: The Slate Theater, Thurs-Sun-Wed Sept 13, through Sept 16
Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike: Bathhouse Theater, Fri-Mon, \$25, through Sept 17

Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

QUEER

Rainbow Bingo Sports-A-Palooza

DON'T MISS It's a week heavy with queer fundraisers—some quite worthy, others

perhaps not everyone's cup of tea. If you can't pony up \$2,750 for a table at the HRC gala, head on down to the Southeast Seattle Senior Center for a rootin' and tootin' fundraiser open to anyone with a couple bucks to chip in for local elders. Sylvia O'Stayformore and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will be shaking a leg alongside the Black N Blue Band, and you'll get a chance to win fabulous prizes in a series of 12 bingo games. Enjoy some beer, wine, and Jell-O shots knowing your money will help make a real impact in the community. (Southeast Seattle Senior Center, Fri Sept 8, 6-9 pm, \$20/\$25) **MATT BAUME**

We also recommend...

Better Than Chocolate: Northwest Film Forum, Wed Sept 6, 7 pm, \$6

Myriad of Myths: Rendezvous, Fri Sept 8, 6-8:30 pm, \$12-\$25

Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

READINGS & TALKS

Daniel Handler with Sherman Alexie

DON'T MISS Given that Sherman Alexie decided to cancel his tour and most public appearances for the year, there's a slim possibility he won't read tonight. But Daniel Handler will certainly be there! He's dropping the Lemony Snicket pen name and returning to his more realistic, troubling, Philip Roth-y treatment of the dark lives of juveniles with a new slim novel called *All the Dirty Parts*. It's about a porn-obsessed high schooler named Cole who constantly thinks about having sex. Like the young protagonists in Roth's *Portnoy's Complaint* or J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*, Cole's newly increased testosterone levels apparently give him license to push the legal boundaries of sexual and social behavior. If you don't get enough of the president's unrestrained id throughout the week, try a romp through this dirty—and ultimately very lonely—teenager's mind. You'll probably laugh as much as you cringe with this one. (Temple De Hirsch Sinai, Thurs Sept 7, 7:30 pm, free) **RICH SMITH**

We also recommend...

500 Women Scientists: Dealing with Controversy: Ada's Technical Books, Thurs Sept 7, 7 pm, \$5

African American Writers' Alliance Poetry Reading: Third Place Books Seward Park, Second Mon 7 pm, free

Ann Powers: Love and Sex, Black and White, Body and Soul in American Music: The Summit, Fri Sept 8, 7:30 pm, \$5

Ben Blum: Ranger Games: Elliott Bay Book Company, Tues Sept 12, 7 pm, free

Dar Williams: A Thousand Small Towns: Rainier Arts Center, Sun Sept 10, 6 pm, \$5

An Evening with Alan Alda: Herzl-Ner

Continued ►

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THINGS TO DO ARTS & CULTURE

Tamid Congregation, Mercer Island, Wed
Sept 6, 7-8 pm, \$35**Felice Picano and Eric Andrews-Katz:**
University Book Store, Fri Sept 8, 7 pm, free**John Nichols: Horsemen of the Trumpocalypse:** The Summit, Mon Sept 11, 7:30 pm, \$5**Jonathan White: TIDES, The Science and Spirit of the Ocean:** University Lutheran Church, Tues Sept 12, 7:30 pm, \$5**Marci Calabretta Cancio Bello with Arlene Kim and E.J. Koh:** Hugo House First Hill, Sun Sept 10, 7 pm, free**My Family's Slave:** Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Wed Sept 6, 4-6 pm, free**A Place to Call Home: Jane Wong, Michelle Peñaloza, and Tessa Hulls:** Wing Luke Museum, Thurs Sept 7, 6:30 pm, free
Rowan Buchanan Hisayo: Harmless Like You: Hugo House First Hill, Fri Sept 8, 7 pm, free**Word Works: Kelly Link:** Frye Art Museum, Fri Sept 8, 7-9 pm, \$15Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

FILM

Seattle Black Panther Party 50th Anniversary Kickoff

DON'T MISS This event, which is a part of the nationally recognized Seventh Art Stand movement, will feature a preview screening of a documentary based on Aaron Dixon's book *My People Are Rising*. Dixon helped open the first chapter of the Black Panther Party outside of California. This happened in 1968 in the Central District, Seattle's former black neighborhood. The Black Panther Party is famous for combining in its program self-defense and the organic intellectualism that the antifascist Italian theorist Antonio Gramsci described in his concept of hegemony. Dixon will be at this event. Looking at him is like looking at a statue of the people's history of Seattle. (*Northwest Film Forum, Sun Sept 10, 4 pm, \$12*) **CHARLES MUDEDE***We also recommend...***70mm Film Festival:** Cinerama, Wed Sept 6, \$16 per film**Beach Rats:** SIFF, opens Fri Sept 8, \$11/\$14**The Big Lebowski:** Central Cinema, Wed Sept 6, 9:45 pm, \$8**The Big Sick:** Various locations**Columbus:** SIFF Cinema Uptown, \$11/\$14**Dunkirk:** Wed Sept 6, AMC Seattle 10 & Meridian 16**Good Time:** Various locations**Logan Lucky:** Various locations**Patti Cake\$:** Various locations**Rift:** SIFF Film Center, opens Sat Sept 9, \$11/\$14**Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan 35th Anniversary:** Varsity Theatre, Sun Sept 10, 2 pm, 7 pm**Step:** Varsity Theatre, \$10.50**Thin Skin Fundraiser ft. Charles Mudede, Ahamefule J. Oluo, and Lindy West:** The Cloud Room, Thurs Sept 7, 7-9 pm, free**The Treasure of the Sierra Madre:** Central Cinema, Wed Sept 6, 7 pm, \$2**The Trip to Spain:** SIFF Cinema Uptown, \$11/\$14**The Villainess:** SIFF, opens Fri Sept 8, \$11/\$14Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

FOOD & DRINK

Solid Ground Farm to Table Dinner

DON'T MISS I realize this event is pricey, but you get a lot of good stuff. This four-course feast is held at Solid Ground's Marra Farm in South Park, the city's only working farm, and cooked by chef Shawn Applin of Outlier. Outlier is amazing, and I'm already impressed with what Applin can do with vegetables, so I definitely support anything that has him cooking at a farm where they grow awesome organic vegetables. For your ticket price, which includes wine pairings, you also get a vigorous discussion of food justice, which is a way more important subject than you probably think. Food is one of the most basic pillars of health, health is one of the most basic pillars of personal economic stability, and poor people in this country are systematically denied access to healthy food. Lots of seemingly unrelated societal issues stem from food, basically. South Park, still one of the city's poorest neighborhoods, is a fitting setting for this discussion, as the only produce available since the Mexican grocery closed is a few sad limes and onions held in a tiny beverage cooler at the convenience store. Marra Farm uses the 15,000 pounds of produce it produces annually to feed the community's neediest residents and also offers free classes on how to grow your own. Marra Farm deserves your money. (*Marra Farm, Fri Sept 8, 6:30 pm, \$350*) **TOBIAS COUGHLIN-BOGUE***We also recommend...***2017 Washington Artisan Cheesemakers Festival:** Seattle Design Center, Sat Sept 9, 1-5 pm, \$35-\$65**5th Annual San Gennaro Festival:** 1225 S Angelo St, Sept 8-10, free entry**Apple Pressing at MOHAI:** Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI), Sat Sept 9, 11 am-3 pm, included with \$20 museum admission**Night Market and Autumn Moon Festival:** Chinatown-International District, Sat Sept 9, 4 pm-midnight, free**Seattle Cider Summit:** South Lake Union Discovery Center, Sept 8-9, \$25-\$40+**Sunday Cooking Classes at Addo:** Various locations, Sun 11:30 am-1:30 pm, \$65**Sustainable Ballard Festival:** Ballard Commons Park, Sat Sept 9, 11 am-4 pm, freeComplete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

ART

Prize Inside the Box: New Work by Tara Thomas

DON'T MISS Have you seen people wearing that "This Bitch Face Does Not Rest" T-shirt? Have you heard people talking about the nacho cheese fountain that burbled gorgeously and grossly in a faux Taco Bell for one night only at the Factory? Or did you at least catch the February 2017 cover of *City Arts* magazine that featured a woman who looked like a young Liza Minnelli completely covered in gold sparkles? If so, you've only seen glimpses of Mary Anne Carter's genius. This week, she and her "producer/enabler" Adj McColl are focusing all their powers into a brand-new collaborative art space and gallery in the Tashiro Kaplan building called Party Hat. The cool thing about this studio: Carter and McColl

THINGS TO DO **ARTS & CULTURE**

collaborate with each artist they show in order to make a limited-edition, reasonably priced product for sale. After a few months, the Jesus Mary Anne Joseph store, which is housed within Party Hat, will be brimming with T-shirts and pins and bags designed by local artists. The other cool thing about this studio: They're taking humor seriously. For evidence of this, look no further than their inaugural show with Tara Thomas, *Prize Inside the Box*, which is about her three-year relationship with Franzia. There will be new paintings from Thomas and several boxes of the titular wine. (*Party Hat*, Thurs Sept 7, 5-9 pm, free) **RICH SMITH**

We also recommend...

ART EVENTS

First Thursday Art Walk: Pioneer Square, Thurs Sept 7, free

Georgetown Art Attack: Various venues, Sat Sept 9, 6-9 pm, free

Zaria Forman: Antarctica: Beyond the Familiar: Winston Wachter Fine Art, Sat Sept 9, 7:30 pm, \$5

MUSEUMS

Electric Coffin: Future Machine: Bellevue Arts Museum, Wed-Sun, \$12, through Sept 10

Kraft Duntz featuring Dawn Cerny: Fun. No Fun.: Henry Art Gallery, Wed-Sun, \$10, through Sept 10

Summer Wheat: Full Circle: Henry Art Gallery, Wed-Sun, \$10, through Sept 17

Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors: Seattle Art Museum, Wed-Sun, \$35, through Sept 10

GALLERIES

BorderLands: King Street Station, Thurs-Sun, free, through Oct 29

Chris Engman and Dan Webb: Greg Kucera Gallery, opening reception Thurs Sept 7, 6-8 pm, Tues-Sat, free, through Oct 28

Closed Quarters: Vachon Gallery, Mon-Fri, free, through Sept 29

Elizabeth Mputu: Interstitial, Sat, free, through Oct 28

John Criscitello: In Code: 4Culture Gallery, opening reception Thurs Sept 7, 6-8 pm, Mon-Fri, free, through Sept 28

Leiko Ikemura and Alwyn O'Brien: James Harris Gallery, opening reception Thurs Sept 7, 6-8 pm, Thurs-Sat, free, through Oct 14

Markel Uriu: Detritus: METHOD, Thurs-Sat, free, through Sept 23

Mystical Orchid: Hedreen Gallery, Wed-Sat, free, through Oct 14

Robert C. Jones and Cable Griffith: G. Gibson Gallery, opening reception Sat Sept 9, 3-5 pm, Fri-Sat, free, through Oct 14

Sofie Knijff: Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, Thurs-Sat, free, through Oct 13

Tatiana Garmendia: Seattle Presents Gallery, Tues, 12-2 pm free, through Oct 14

Unarmed: Bridge Productions, opening reception Sat Sept 9, 6-9 pm, Thurs-Sat, free, through Sept 30

Unreal City: Fantagraphics Bookstore and Gallery, opening reception and reading Sat Sept 9, 6-9 pm, daily, free, through Oct 11

unstable objects: The Alice, Sat, 12-7 pm, through Oct 14


Zaria Forman: Antarctica: Winston Wachter Fine Art, opening reception Sat Sept 9, 4-7 pm, Mon-Sat, free, through Nov 4

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OCT. 19 - 29	DISNEY'S ALADDIN
OCT. 15	JASON MORAN "IN MY MIND"
OCT. 19	HUDSON: JACK DEJOHNETTE, LARRY GRENADIER, JOHN MEDESKI & JOHN SCOFIELD
OCT. 20	WHOSE LIVE ANYWAY?
NOV. 1	GREGORY PORTER
NOV. 6	SILENT MOVIE MONDAYS "THE UNKNOWN"
NOV. 10	GLOBAL PARTY
NOV. 14	L-E-V "OCD LOVE"
NOV. 16	THE DINNER PARTY DOWNLOAD
NOV. 25	BÉLA FLECK & ABIGAIL WASHBURN
NOV. 25	MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER CHRISTMAS BY CHIP DAVIS
DEC. 5	JOHN MCLAUGHLIN & JIMMY HERRING "MEETING OF THE SPIRITS"
DEC. 22 - 24	CIRQUE DREAMS HOLIDAZE
JAN. 2 - 14	THE BOOK OF MORMON
JAN. 19 - 28	GHOST QUARTET
FEB. 3	ANTONIO SANCHEZ "BIRDMAN LIVE"
FEB. 16 - 18	MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP "SGT. PEPPER AT 50: PEPPERLAND"
FEB. 23	MILES ELECTRIC BAND
MAR. 16	17 TH ANNUAL MORE MUSIC @ THE MOORE
MAR. 20	MANUAL CINEMA "ADA/AVA"
MAR. 23 & 24	KIDD PIVOT AND ELECTRIC COMPANY THEATRE "BETROFFENHEIT"
MAR. 30	STARBUCKS HOT JAVA COOL JAZZ
APR. 2 - 30	SILENT MOVIE MONDAYS "LEADING LADIES"
APR. 7	DORRANCE DANCE
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THINGS TO DO MUSIC

Noteworthy Shows This Week

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WEDNESDAY 9/6

Vallis Alps, Anomie Belle, Taylor Elizza Beth

(Crocodile, all ages) Vallis Alps producer David Ansari hails from our fair city, singer Parissa Tosif hails from Canberra, Australia—the national capital that the country's leaders had to plant halfway between archrival cities Sydney and Melbourne. The two musicians met in Israel when they both took a gap year. Such is the international community, even in the shadow of the orange one. And Vallis Alps make music together without necessarily standing or sitting on the same continent; such is technology. Tosif sounds like she wants to give everything in the world, beyond herself, beyond humanness, even. The background vocals mutter and groan and imply a sinister Greek chorus. I'm hoping with every song that she outruns the cloud, by whichever map. **ANDREW HAMLIN**

THURSDAY 9/7

Thundercat, PBDY

(Showbox, all ages) Call it hyperbole if you must, but the LA-based Thundercat ranks among the most influential bassists of his generation. Having played with bands and acts that range from Suicidal Tendencies to Erykah Badu to, most notably, Kendrick Lamar—Thundercat won a Grammy for his work on *To Pimp a Butterfly*'s "These Walls"—the bassist born Stephen Bruner has come into his own as a solo artist, releasing three albums of hip-hop-infused jazz fusion via longtime collaborator Flying Lotus's Brainfeeder label, including this year's astounding *Drunk*. Expect a show full of musical pyrotechnics and Bruner's inimitable energy, which has made him one of the most in-demand bassists both on stage and in the studio. **NICK ZURKO**

MOTOR: Nick Klein, Enrique, Collin Strange, Cavernous, T.Wan

(Kremwerk) New York via Miami producer Nick Klein takes techno to some unusual places on his recordings. With his releases for L.I.E.S., Summer Isle, Black Acid, and other underground labels, Klein often riddles his 4/4 beats with unpredictable hitches and he klangs his timbres into stark industrial regions. You may be surprised to hear that Klein's *Rhinestone Cowboy* EP on L.I.E.S. sounds nothing like the late Glen Campbell; rather, it's a relentless journey into nihilistic netherzones. Klein's all about alien and alienating experimental techno and subverting clubland's status quo, but I'm sure you're up for the challenge. As with all MOTOR events, it's worth getting to the venue early for the strong supporting acts. **DAVE SEGAL**

FRIDAY 9/8

Cigarettes After Sex

(Crocodile, all ages) It's tempting to be cynical toward any band that blows up before their first album drops. Sure, Cigarettes After Sex had an EP from 2012 and a few scattered songs floating around online in the interim between their debut and this summer's self-titled full-length, but that kind of early



Stiff Little Fingers
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WEBBARRIE

internet hype typically doesn't pan out so well when the artist finally makes a proper album. Fortunately, that's not the case here. And considering our withering attention spans in the age of media saturation, the ability of a sparse, hushed, narcoleptic pop group to actually grab people's attention without a bunch of pandering promotional gimmicks is a testament to Cigarettes After Sex's songwriting strength, tasteful restraint, and simple aesthetic grace. So come on aboard, there's lots of room for you on the bandwagon. **BRIAN COOK**

The Knast

(Fred Wildlife Refuge) Garage-/psych-rock revivalism will never die. And that's a good thing, as long as we have acolytes as dedicated and endowed with deep knowledge of the form as Seattle quartet the Knast. If a band can conjure the genres' requisite hooks, dynamics, and ingeniously distorted guitar tones, they can excel at this game, no matter what year it happens to be. The Knast's *Reckless Soul* album—for which this show acts as a release party—cruises with well-oiled precision over 10 songs that all contend for claiming foremost dominance in your mind. No, *Reckless Soul* doesn't innovate, but it does capture a vibe worth cherishing, and does it with absolute panache—especially "Time Out of Mind." **DAVE SEGAL**

Coast Modern, Salt Cathedral

(Tractor) This will be a homecoming show of sorts for half of Coast Modern; Luke Atlas

met Coleman Trapp a few days after the former made the move from Seattle to Los Angeles in 2014. Working together on educational rap songs for NASA during the day, the two eventually decided to make non-astronomical-related music together on the side. Coast Modern's debut single, "Hollow Life," made its way onto the radio almost as soon as it was released on SoundCloud in 2015, as Trapp's voice makes nearly every line anthemic enough to be stuck in your head for days. This year brought their debut self-titled album, which mixes breezy electropop with inklings of hip-hop, indie pop, and psych rock, resulting in 18 beach-infused and summer-approved tracks. **ANNA KAPLAN**

SATURDAY 9/9

The Church, the Helio Sequence

(Neptune, all ages) If you wish you knew which show you were looking for, this might be the one you'll find. Dark-hued Australian new wavers the Church rose to moderate fame with their single "Under the Milky Way" in 1988, a lovelorn anthem with a mysterious allure only heightened with a synthesized guitar solo popularly mistaken for bagpipes. Their profusely lush dream-world of spiderweb-intricate guitars and heaven-sent melodies differentiated itself in the early 1980s from starry-eyed contemporaries like Echo & the Bunnymen with their emphasis on the acoustic guitar, which lends a startling intimacy to the Church's tracks. This introspective, brooding-in-the-dark vibe is best represented with 1982's slice of

ethereal jangle, *The Blurred Crusade*, and 1983's *Seance*. Although original vocalist/guitarist Steve Kilbey has expressed contempt for his biggest hit ("Milky Way") and claims to avoid rehashing their older work in recent sets, I still hope they cave and at least play "Reptile." **BRITTNE FULLER**

Janet Feder & Fred Frith

(Chapel Performance Space, all ages) Here's the place to be for people into unorthodox guitar manipulations. Prepared-guitar savant Janet Feder has worked with some of the world's most inventive players, including Nels Cline, Bill Frisell, Amy Denio, Thinking Plague, and her billmate tonight, Fred Frith. The latter has been a quirky subverter of rock tropes in the heady prog group Henry Cow, in the avant-noise/post-punk unit Massacre, on numerous solo LPs (including *Gravity* and *Cheap at Half the Price* for Ralph Records), and in several collaborative releases (see his LPs with Henry Kaiser, *With Friends Like These* and *Who Needs Enemies*). His quicksilver, piquant tones and angular songwriting have made him one of the planet's most interesting guitar misfits. For this gig, Feder and Frith will tackle material from their 2006 LP, *Ironie Universe*, an exquisite twining of their pellucid tone poetry and understated melodic expressiveness. **DAVE SEGAL**

OK Go, Paper Pilots

(Moore, all ages) When's the last time you watched a music video that made you sit up *Continued* ▶

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9.7 Thursday (Soul/Rock)

HIGH CLOUD COVER + BABY CAKES

9.8 Friday (DJ/Dance Party)

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9.9 Saturday (Reggae)

CLINTON FEARON

Boogie Brown Band,
Valley Green, Selecta Raiford

9.10 Sunday (Hip-Hop)

HUEY P

Monstah, The Hop Monsters, Zero Hero

9.12 Tuesday (Hip-Hop)

MASTA ACE

Wake Self, Mr Hi-Def, DJ Element

9.13 Wednesday (Latin)

LAS CAFETERAS

Edna Vazquez Band, DJ Chilly

9.14 Thursday (Latin)

THE CUMBIEROS

Happy Orchestra

9.15 Friday (Electronic)

RANDOM RAB & BLOCKHEAD

Michael Manahan

UP & COMING

EVERY MONDAY: MOJAM

9.16 LIFE DURING WARTIME

9.19 RAY JR

9.20 BLACK UHURU

9.21 DEVIN SINHA

9.22 BARRETT MARTIN GROUP

9.23 THE GOLDEN ROAD

9.26 BIDDADAT

9.28 RAYVEN JUSTICE

9.29 ¡MAYDAY!

9.30 ELDRIDGE GRAVY &
THE COURT SUPREME

10.5 DIRTY REVIVAL

10.6 TAUKE

10.7 HIT EXPLOSION

10.10 BROTHERS GOW

10.11 THE ACCIDENTALS

10.12 THE EXPANDERS

10.13 PIGEONS PLAYING
PING PONG

10.17 ALEC SHAW,
MAMA MAGNOLIA

10.18 JOE DORIA,
WILL BERNARD, SKERIK

10.19 TWIDDLE

10.20 POLECAT

10.21 PHUTUREPRIMITIVE
+PAPADOSIO

10.26 CLOZEE

10.27 LYRICS BORN

10.28 ACORN PROJECT

10.29 TROUT STEAK REVIVAL

11.2 BIZARRE RIDE II

THE PHARCYDE

11.3 KITCHEN DWELLERS

11.4 NITE WAVE

11.5 RUSS LIQUID

11.8 THE GARCIA PROJECT

11.10 GONDWANA

11.14 INDUSTRIAL REVELATION

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THINGS TO DO MUSIC

and say, "Wow"? In recent years, it seems like the only real successor to the ambition of Michael Jackson's *Thriller* might be Beyoncé's Terrence-Malick-meets-spoken-word opus *Lemonade*, but that visual album cost more than many feature films do. Ten years ago, Chicago pop-rock outfit OK Go won a Grammy for doing a quirky one-shot video for their song "Here It Goes Again." Since then, the band has made as much of a name for themselves with successive fun DIY music videos as they have with their equally fun, infectious, and energetic music. Now if only the Moore will let them bring treadmills onstage... **JOSEPH SCHAFFER**

Foreigner, Cheap Trick, Jason Bonham's Led Zeppelin Experience

(White River Amphitheatre, all ages) Upon forming in 1976, Foreigner were a low-key supergroup featuring ex-Spooky Tooth guitarist Mick Jones and Ian McDonald—the guy who did much of the weird stuff on *In the Court of the Crimson King*. Like their peers Kansas and Styx, Foreigner was a well-oiled pop machine masquerading as a "serious" rock band. Their self-titled debut remains one of the more listenable relics of the AOR era precisely because of how poppy it is. The one-two opening punch of "Feels Like the First Time" and the McCartney-worshipping "Cold as Ice" is masterful sequencing, but even non-hits like the woozy "Starrider" and "The Damage Is Done" are significantly meatier than your average 1970s diet-rock filler. The real star, however, is Foreigner's erstwhile lead vocalist Lou Gramm, who, along with Steve Marriott, could be classic rock's most underrated singer. (*Circus* magazine famously

remarked that Gramm possessed a voice "Robert Plant might envy," and he probably did.) **MORGAN TROPER**

XYLØ

(Barboza) Chase and Paige Duddy, the brother and sister duo behind XYLØ, have been making music together on and off almost their whole lives. It wasn't until 2014, when Chase was working on a song for a video advertisement, that the XYLØ project started. Chase needed a singer, and with the help of his younger sister Paige, finished the song and released the video, which resulted in utter pandemonium. To please their new-found fans, they released "America," their eerie alt-pop, Lana Del Rey-esque debut single that critiques the state of the country. XYLØ have stayed political since, releasing "Fool's Paradise" in response to Trump's election and a slew of singles this year, all in their distinct corner of dark electronic pop.

ANNA KAPLAN

Tomo Nakayama, Led to Sea, Mr. and Mrs. Muffins

(Fremont Abbey, all ages) Tomo Nakayama makes, if anything, deeper sense to me 16 years after I discovered him in the wake of 9/11. His music was calming folks—although I understand that isn't his primary intention—in the shadow of 9/11, Election Day, or whatever confines us within the famous Hoodie of Dread. He's still sensible, still tuneful, understated, urging us to look at the sky, the moon, nature, and commonplace things, commonplace feelings, even. A good friend of mine got Siri to say, "You should be satisfied with what you have," and has no idea

how he got Siri to say that. Tomo knows of what he sings, telling us to at least consider *satisfaction* with what we have. And then build from there. **ANDREW HAMLIN**

SUNDAY 9/10

Mac DeMarco, the Garden

(Moore, all ages, Sept 10–11) Mac DeMarco has become one of the most recognizable figures in modern indie rock, and his ascendance says a lot about where the music is headed. In terms of sound (laid-back, tuneful, retro) and personality (nonchalant, candid, goofy), DeMarco is the antithesis of the buttoned-up Ben Gibbard types who typified indie in the previous decade. One need only delve into the fine print on festival bills—or read the local music listings—to find young bands that cop DeMarco's style. Few, though, can match his ear for songwriting. DeMarco stays ensconced in his comfort zone on his latest record, *This Old Dog*, but you can't fault him too much when being himself has gotten him so far. **ANDREW GOSPE**

MONDAY 9/11

Epica, Lacuna Coil, Insomnium, Elantris

(Showbox, all ages) While a majority of their melodic power metal contemporaries rely heavily on Tolkien-esque fantasy imagery (à la Blind Guardian and Rhapsody), Dutch band Epica's lyrics read more like a self-help book than anything, with titles like *Design Your Universe*, *Stay the Course*, and *Banish Your Illusion*. To get a fair idea of what they

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CELESTINO
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KILLAH TACTICS
SEVERED THE IMPALER
KING BISHOP BARS
FIZZ

MON 9/18 6:30PM
ORPHANED LAND
PAIN
VOODOO KUNGFU
WHYTHRE

TUE SEPT 19 6PM
TWIZTID 20 YEAR
ANNIVERSARY TOUR
MOONSHINE BANDITS
BLAZE YA DEAD HOMIE
WITNEY PEYTON
KST BLUNT TRAMA
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TUESDAY 9/12

(Paramount, all ages) To describe Alabama native Jason Isbell as a thoughtful, progressive country artist does a disservice to the genre, since he's hardly alone in that regard but the former Drive-By Trucker has become as much of a standard-bearer as Steve Earle or Johnny Cash. Granted, Isbell's music has also been categorized as roots rock and Southern rock, but he seems less concerned



Man's World") and a "son of a bitch" of a year ("Hope the High Road"), subjects his peers have tackled, but rarely with the same degree of eloquence or conviction.

KATHY FENNESSY

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"IN MY MIND"

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PAUL WELLER

LUCY ROSE

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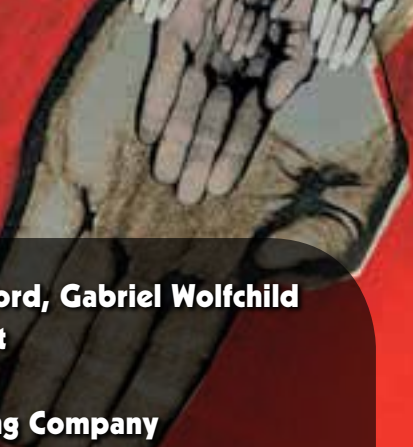
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9.8 Dave King Trucking Company

9.9 Electric Circus: Sly Sun Sivad
(The Music of Sly Stone, Miles Davis and Sun Ra)

9.14 Mike Dillon Band, Mark Lettieri Trio
(ft. members of Snarky Puppy)

9.15 Grown Folks Friday ft. Carl Ratcliffe Band, vocalist April Shantae, and DJ Mr. Nyice Guy on the 1's and 2's

9.16 The Nth Power, Ghost-Note
(ft. members of Snarky Puppy), High Pulp

9.19 I'm the One: The Music of Annette Peacock

9.23 The Mews

9.28 The Leap – Patrick Gleeson (Herbie Hancock), Sam Morrison (Miles Davis), Michael Shrieve (Santana)


LATE NIGHT IN THE LOUNGE at 10pm

Mondays: The Salute Sessions (except Labor Day / 9.4)

Tuesdays: 9.12 & 9.26 Wayne Horvitz Trio ft. Geoff Harper
9.19 The Royal We (Wayne Horvitz, Skerik, Evan Flory-Barnes, Dave Abramson)




Wednesdays: Funk Church with High Pulp

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WED 9/6

OPEN MIC

BLUE MOON TAVERN Open Mic, 8 pm, free

DARRELL'S TAVERN Open Mic, 8:30 pm, free

★ **GRUMPY D'S** Open Mic, 6:30-9 pm

HOPVINE PUB Open Mic, 8 pm, free

SKYLARK CAFE & CLUB Open Mic, 8:30 pm, free

LIVE MUSIC

BARBOZA Monsterwatch, Crittè, Landmarks, Powerbleeder, 8 pm, \$8/\$10

★ **CHOP SUEY** ArtAche Market Presents: Lilac, 6 pm-midnight, free

★ **CROCODILE** Vallis Alps, Tylar Elizza Beth, Anomie Belle, 8 pm, \$15.50/\$18.50

THE FUNHOUSE The Murderburgers, City Mouse, Burn Burn Burn, Shadow Cats, 9 pm, \$6/\$8

HIGHWAY 99 Drummerboy with Guests, 8 pm, \$7

JAZZ ALLEY The Dustbowl Revival and The Hot Club of Cowtown, 7:30 pm, \$30.50

PEDDLER BREWING COMPANY Going Going Gong: Filthy FemCorps Fundraiser, 6-9:30 pm, \$10 Suggested Donation

THE ROYAL ROOM Frances Luke Accord, 8 pm, \$10/\$12

SHOWBOX SODO Black Tiger Sex Machine, Yookie, Kai Wachi, Sullivan King, Lektrique: Midnight Terror Tour, 7 pm, \$17.75/\$20

★ **SHOWBOX** Keyshia Cole, 9:30 pm, \$42/\$52

STUDIO SEVEN RAW: Seattle = Fashion + Music + Art + Performances, Sept 6-7, 7-11:30 pm, \$22/\$30

SUBSTATION TBASA's Lo-Fi All Stars #93: Madi Seasons, Matthew Charles, Clay Snyder, Big Sky Mind, TBASA, 8 pm, \$6

★ **SUNSET TAVERN** Alexandra Savior with Máscaras, 9 pm, \$12

TRACTOR TAVERN Origami Ghosts, Perfect Families, somesurprises, 8 pm, \$8

JAZZ

★ **NECTAR** SKERIK BAND with Banda Magda, 8 pm, \$10/\$15

TIM'S TAVERN Jazz Night with Stuart McDonald, 8 pm, free

VITO'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE Bar Tabac, 9 pm

DJ

FOUNDATION SUBstance Wednesdays, 10 pm, \$0-10

LO-FI Loving Touch, 9 pm-2 am, free

REVOLVER BAR AM I Normal? Punk Rock Edition, 9 pm-2 am, free

THURS 9/7

OPEN MIC

★ **DOWNPOUR BREWING** Open Mic Night: Guests, 5 pm, free

★ **STONE WAY CAFE** WIDE Open Mic: Guests, 7-11 pm, free

LIVE MUSIC

BLUE MOON TAVERN Correspondents, Kulkulkan, Arango, Lemat, 9 pm

★ **CROCODILE** Grace Love, The Guessing Game, Joyfield, DJ Indica Jones, 8 pm, \$13

DARRELL'S TAVERN The Deadrones, Ellis Pink, Radioshark, 8-11 pm

THE FUNHOUSE Harlis Sweetwater Band, Mo Brown & The Shit Downtown, Cristos & Co, Foxy Apollo, 8 pm, \$6/\$8

HIGHLINE Gun Hill Royals, Dangerbird, Hamma Hamma, 9 pm, \$10/\$12

★ **KREMWERK** MOTOR: Nick Klein & Enrique, 8 pm, \$10

LO-FI The Daisy Strains, Girls Named Tomorrow, Asterhouse, 8 pm, \$8

NECTAR A Night of Classic Soul and Rock & Roll with High Cloud Cover and Baby Cakes, 8 pm, \$10/\$15

NEUMOS Asgeir with Ethan Gruska, 8 pm, \$20

PONT Ecklund Presents: Back-Lash!, 9 pm, \$5

THE ROYAL ROOM Raul Midon, 8 pm, \$20/\$25

SHOWBOX SODO MisterWives, Smallpools, Vinyl Theatre, 7 pm, \$25/\$28

★ **SHOWBOX** Thundercat with PBDY, 8:30 pm, \$25

SUNSET TAVERN The Yawpers, Stubborn Son, Dead Man, 9 pm, \$10

TRACTOR TAVERN Ages and Ages, Genders, Warren Dunes, 8 pm, \$12

JAZZ

★ **JAZZ ALLEY** Marcus Miller, \$40.50

TULA'S Dmitri Matheny Group, 7:30 pm, \$12

DJ

GRIM'S Special Blends, 8 pm-2 am, free

TIMBRE ROOM BUTT DAY, 5-9 pm, free

CLASSICAL/OPERA

★ **CHAPEL PERFORMANCE SPACE** The Living: Contemporary Music for Solo Piano, 8 pm, \$5-\$15

FRI 9/8

LIVE MUSIC

BARBOZA G O L D N W O L F with Something Witchy, 7 pm, \$10

BLUE MOON TAVERN Brooke & Dawn, Freud Frankenstein, Best Band On Earth, 9 pm, \$10

CENTRAL SALOON Legion Within, Mixed Messages, Ghosts in the Graveyard, 8 pm, \$7

★ **CHAPEL PERFORMANCE SPACE** Steve O'Brien's Moving Out, 8 pm, \$5-\$15

CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE Steve Winwood, 7 pm, \$49.50/\$79.50

CONOR BYRNE Vito & The One-Eyed Jacks, Sweet Lou's Sour Mash, The Evergreen Shakers, 9 pm, free

★ **CROCODILE** Cigarettes After Sex, 9 pm, \$18/\$20

★ **EL CORAZON** Perturbator, The Drip, Newaxeyes, 8 pm, \$18/\$20

EMERALD QUEEN CASINO Charlie Wilson, 8:30 pm, \$65-\$150

★ **FRED WILDLIFE REFUGE** The Knast Record Release Show, 8 pm, \$8

THE FUNHOUSE We Buy Gold, Neptuna, Merchant Mariner, Tim McBride & The Divide, 8 pm, \$8/\$10

HIGH DIVE The West Coast Feed, Subways on the Sun,

Ian Hale & The Legacy, Beasts of Burden, 9 pm, \$10

HIGHWAY 99 Nearly Dan, 8 pm, \$20

LO-FI Cold Soda with Guests, 9 pm

LUCKY LIQUOR Hayley & The Crushers, Slow Elk, Golden Idols, 7 pm, \$5/\$8

SEAMONSTER LOUNGE Funky 2 Death: Guests, 10 pm, \$10

★ **SHOWBOX** Reverend Horton Heat, Strung Out, Larry & His Flask, 9 pm, \$25/\$30

SLIM'S LAST CHANCE Boss Martians, Starjays, Wildcat Rose, 9 pm, \$5

SNOQUALMIE CASINO Johnny Rivers, 8 pm, \$25-\$50

SUBSTATION Electric NoNo, Killer Workout, SharkLegs, 9 pm, \$8

SUNSET TAVERN BRONCHO, Billy Changer, Spirit Award, 9 pm, \$15

TIM'S TAVERN Tallwomen, ISCH, Lemmon, Black Doubt, 8 pm, \$5

★ **TRACTOR TAVERN** Coast Modern with Guests, 9 pm, \$12

★ **TRIPLE DOOR** Sweet Dreams: The Music of Patsy Cline, 8 pm, \$20/\$22

★ **VERA PROJECT** Sinners & Saviors, Mugshot, Serpent's Tongue, Gravehound, 7 pm, \$10

TRACTOR TAVERN Ages and Ages, Genders, Warren Dunes, 8 pm, \$12

JAZZ

RESONANCE AT SOMA TOWERS An Evening with Groove for Thought, Sept 8-9, 7:30-9:30 pm, \$30/\$35

THE ROYAL ROOM Dave King Trucking Company, 8 pm, \$18/\$20

DJ

FOUNDATION Resonate Fridays, 9 pm-2 am, \$15-\$30

HAVANA Viva Havana: Soul One, Sean Cee, Curtis, Nostalgia B, and DV One, 9 pm, \$15

KREMWERK Noise Complaint with BOT and Dateless, 10 pm, \$10/\$15

NECTAR TRL Total Request Live Night: Back to School Edition, 9 pm, \$8/\$12

NEUMOS Bootie Seattle: Michael Jackson Mash-Up Night, 9 pm, \$5 Before 10pm/\$10 After 10pm

PONT Rent Control, 9 pm-2 am, free

Q NIGHTCLUB JET: 2ToneDisco & Equator Club, 10 pm-2 am, \$15

SUBSTATION Deeper Roots, 10 pm-2:30 am, \$10

CLASSICAL/OPERA

★ **CHAPEL PERFORMANCE SPACE** Steve O'Brien's Moving Out, 8 pm, \$5-\$15

CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE Steve Winwood, 7 pm, \$49.50/\$79.50

CONOR BYRNE Vito & The One-Eyed Jacks, Sweet Lou's Sour Mash, The Evergreen Shakers, 9 pm, free

★ **CROCODILE** Cigarettes After Sex, 9 pm, \$18/\$20

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THE FUNHOUSE We Buy Gold, Neptuna, Merchant Mariner, Tim McBride & The Divide, 8 pm, \$8/\$10

HIGH DIVE The West Coast Feed, Subways on the Sun,

★ **EL CORAZON** Versus with Guests, 7 pm, \$10/\$12

THE FUNHOUSE Blaze Bayley, Zero Down, Killian Mahaffey, 8 pm, \$20/\$25

GAY CITY Gay City Arts: A Hundred Suns Setting EP Release Party., 7 pm, \$15

GEORGETOWN MUSIC Acoustic Armageddon: Nate Manuel, Wendy Bagnato, TBASA, free

HIGH DIVE Lauren Murphie & the Sodo 4, Ghost Town Whistlers, Amoramora, 8 pm, \$8/\$12

HIGHLINE WARNING DANGER, Rat City Ruckus, Millhous, Leftover Nastys, World Extreme Pencil Fighting League, 9 pm, \$7

HIGHWAY 99 Watermelon Slim & The Workforce, 8 pm, \$18

LUCKY LIQUOR Sewage, Crucial Change, Spike Polite, 8:30 pm, \$5/\$8

★ **MOORE THEATRE** OK Go, 8 pm, \$25

NECTAR Clinton Fearon & the Boogie Brown Band, Valley Green, Selecta Raiford, 8 pm, \$13

★ **NEPTUNE THEATRE** The Church with the Helio Sequence, 8 pm, \$28.50/\$33.50/\$99

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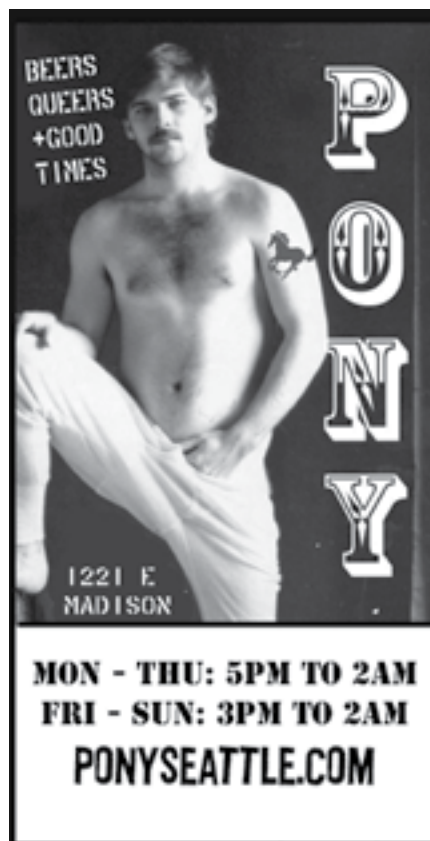
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9/7 THURSDAY		<i>The Crocodile Presents:</i> Grace Love / The Guessing Game Joyfield, DJ Indica Jones <i>All ages</i>
9/9 SATURDAY		<i>The Crocodile Presents:</i> Carbon Leaf Kat Myers & The Buzzards <i>21 and over</i>
9/10 SUNDAY		<i>Bellevue School of Rock Presents:</i> School of Rock Tribute Shows Blondie vs Cheap Trick, Led Zeppelin, American Graffiti
9/11 MONDAY		<i>The Crocodile Presents:</i> Wilsen @ The Sunset Lizzy Rose
9/12 TUESDAY		<i>The Crocodile Presents:</i> The Living End The Darts, The Lucky Boys <i>21 and over</i>

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PERFORMANCE SPACE
Janet Feder & Fred Frith, 8 pm, \$5-\$15
★ **◉ FREMONT ABBEY**
Tomo Nakayama, Led to Sea, Mr and Mrs Muffins, 8 pm, \$12/\$15
TRINITY PARISH CHURCH
The Two Elisabeths, 8 pm, \$25-\$35

SUN 9/10

OPEN MIC
CONOR BYRNE Open Mic for the ACLU, 7:30 pm
LITTLE RED HEN Open Mic Acoustic Jam with Bodacious Billy: Guests, 4 pm, free
TIM'S TAVERN Acoustic Songwriter Sundays: Guests, 6-11 pm

LIVE MUSIC
ANCHOR PUB Leah Tussing & Rafael Tranquilino, 2-5 pm
BARBOZA Cobi, 7 pm, \$12/\$14

CENTRAL SALOON Kung Fu Vampire and Locksmith, 9 pm
◉ **THE FUNHOUSE** The Icarus Account with Guests, 8 pm, \$10/\$12

HIGH DIVE Bob Fossil, The Federal Empire, Hot Rod, 8 pm, \$6/\$8

LUCKY LIQUOR Home Blitz, Physical Comedy, DJ Burnt Zza, 8 pm, \$7

★ **◉ MOORE THEATRE** Mac DeMarco with The Garden, Sept 10-11, 8 pm, \$27.50/\$32.50

NECTAR Huey P, Monstah, The Hop Monsters, Zero Hero, 8 pm, \$8/\$12

NEUMOS Benjamin Booker with She Keeps Bees, 9 pm, \$22

SUNSET TAVERN Sloucher, The Screaming Multitudes, Serving, Salt Lick, 8 pm, \$10

TRACTOR TAVERN Glass Frames, Niagara Moon, Northern Nomads, Bear Axe, DJ Karameic, 8 pm, \$8/\$12

JAZZ

THE ANGRY BEAVER Jazz at the Beaver: Max Holmberg and the 200 Trio, 9 pm, free

CAPITOL CIDER Sunday Night Jazz Flights, 6 pm, free

DARRELL'S TAVERN Sunday Night Jazz Jam: Guests, 8 pm, free

TULA'S ★ **◉** Jim Cutler Jazz Orchestra, 7:30 pm, \$10

VITO'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE ★ The Ron Weinstein Trio, 9:30 pm, free; Bob Hammer, 6 pm, free

DJ

BALTIC ROOM Resurrection Sundays, 9 pm-2 am, \$5

CUFF Sunday Tea Dance: DJ Disco Vinnie, 5-11 pm, free

KREMWERK Fraktured, 9 pm-2 am, \$10

NEIGHBOURS Noche Latino: DJ Luis and DJ Polo, 10 pm-2 am, \$5

PONY The World's Tiniest Tea Dance: DJ King of Pants, DJ Sling Dion, Dee Jay Jack, 4-9 pm, free

★ **RE-BAR** Flammable: DJ Wesley Holmes, Xan Lucero, and Guests, 10 pm-3 am, \$10

THE UPSTAIRS Turntable Sundae: Liquid Dreams: Guest DJs, 7 pm-midnight, free

CLASSICAL/OPERA

★ **NORDIC HERITAGE MUSEUM** The Novus Project in Concert: Celebrating Finnish Composers, 4 pm, \$20

★ **◉ ST. MARK'S CATHEDRAL** Compline Choir, 9:30 pm, free
◉ **TRINITY PARISH CHURCH** Venetian Polyphony: Music From St. Mark's Basilica, 7:30 pm, \$20

MON 9/11

OPEN MIC

MOLLY MAGUIRES Open Mic Monday, 10 pm-1:30 am
TIM'S TAVERN Open Mic, 8:30 pm

WEDGWOOD ALE HOUSE Easy Speak Seattle, 7:45 pm

LIVE MUSIC

THE FUNHOUSE Micah Schnabel, Michael Dean Damron, Zach Caldwell, Eryn Bent, 8 pm, \$6/\$8

★ **◉ MOORE THEATRE** Mac DeMarco with The Garden, Through Sept 11, 8 pm, \$27.50/\$32.50

NEUMOS Heatwarmer, Baby Gramps, PETS, 8 pm, \$10/\$12

★ **◉ SHOWBOX** Epica, Lacuna Coil, Insomnium, Elantris, 7:30 pm, \$28.50/\$30

SUNSET TAVERN Wilsen, 8 pm, \$12

TRACTOR TAVERN Wild Cub with Guests, 8 pm, \$15

DJ

BALTIC ROOM Jam Jam: Mista' Chatman and DJ Element, 9 pm, \$10

★ **BAR SUE** Motown on Mondays: dj100proof, Supreme La Rock, DJ Sessions, and Blueyedsoul, 10 pm, free

★ **RE-BAR** Collide-O-Scope: Guests, Second and fourth Mondays, 6:30-11 pm, \$9

TUE 9/12

OPEN MIC

KREMWERK WERKshop Wednesdays: Kremwerk Open Stage Night, 7-10 pm, \$3

THE OULD TRIANGLE Open Mic: Guests, 8 pm, free

SHADOWLAND Starlite Singer/Songwriter Showcase, 9 pm, free

LIVE MUSIC

BARBOZA Smoke Season, Armors, Patternist, 8 pm, \$10/\$12

CROCODILE The Living End with The Darts, 7 pm, \$20

★ **EL CORAZON** Stiff Little Fingers with Death By Unga Bunga, 8 pm, \$22.50/\$25

★ **NECTAR** Masta Ace, Wake Self, Mr. Hi-Def, DJ Element, 8 pm, \$13/\$16
◉ **NEUMOS** Kings Kaleidoscope, Propaganda, 7 pm, \$20/\$25

★ **PARAMOUNT THEATRE** Jason Isbell & The 400 Unit with Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls, 8 pm, \$29.50/\$39.50

◉ **SHOWBOX SODO** Pepper & Tribal Seeds with Fortunate Youth and Aloha Radio, 7:30 pm, \$35/\$40

SUNSET TAVERN Moon Temple, Hannah Racecar, Surf The Pines, 8 pm, \$8

TIM'S TAVERN Rock-O-Taco Tuesdays, 8 pm, free

TRACTOR TAVERN Greg Graffin with Mike Giacolino, 8 pm, \$25

JAZZ

◉ **JAZZ ALLEY** Monsieur Periné, Sept 12-13, 7:30 pm, \$28.50

◉ **NEPTUNE THEATRE** Al Di Meola's Elegant Gypsy 40th Anniversary Tour 2017, 8 pm, \$38

THE ROYAL ROOM

★ The Anderson Brothers, 7:30 pm, free; Wayne Horvitz Trio, 10 pm, free

◉ **TRIPLE DOOR** GoGo Penguin, 7:30 pm, \$20-\$27

TULA'S Emerald City Jazz Orchestra, 7:30 pm, \$10

DJ

CROCODILE Frank Turner DJ Aftershow, 9 pm, \$10

★ **HAVANA** Real Love '90s: BlesOne, Emecks, Jay Battle, 9 pm, \$5/Free before 10 pm



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JESSICA HERNANDEZ AND THE DELTAS

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KARINA GARCIA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 / 9PM
EN CANTO
PYATÁ & THE RHYTHM

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9/26 RUTH B
9/28 SONDER
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10/6 SOULOUT
10/13 THE GHOST OF PAUL REVERE AND THE LAST REVEL
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Fri 9/8 9pm	HELLERGRAVE (memb of Helm's Alee) See Me River, Cold Soda 8/10
Sat 9/9 9pm	EMERALD CITY SOUL CLUB \$10
Sun 9/10 8pm	COLORWORKS, Tiger Rider
Thu 9/14 8pm	KRAUTROCK 3: Beyond Captain Orca (with Jack Endino) Fraktal Phantom, Luna Moth, Chris Hanis
Fri 9/15 9pm	BLACK NITE CRASH, NewAgeHealers (release)

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HEATWARMER BABY GRAMPS + PETS

WEDNESDAY 9/13
PUP

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RAC NVDES

WEDNESDAY 9/20
TENNYSON DREAM JOURNAL

FRIDAY 9/22
TURKUAZ SINKANE

SUNDAY 9/24
ANDREW W.K. SPINNING WHIPS

MONDAY 9/25
FOUR YEAR STRONG SEAWAY + LIKE PACIFIC + GRAYSCALE + LIFE LESSONS

TUESDAY 9/26
ATLAS GENIUS FLOR + HALF THE ANIMAL

WEDNESDAY 9/27
ALLAH-LAS ENTRANCE

BARBOZA
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GOLDN WOLF SOMETHING WITCHY

SUNDAY 9/10
COBI

TUESDAY 9/12
SMOKE SEASON + ARMORS PATTERNIST

WEDNESDAY 9/13
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MUSIC

ANN POWERS *Good Booty* has its roots in her old Jackson 5 and Osmonds LPs.

Music's Heroes of Eros

Ann Powers's Book *Good Booty* Examines How Race and Sexuality Intertwine in American Music

BY ANDREW HAMLIN

Seattle-born culture critic Ann Powers—who will be discussing her expansive new book, *Good Booty: Love and Sex, Black and White, Body and Soul in American Music*, on September 8 at the Summit—discovered sexiness in music at age 9, with formative tunes making her “jump like a jelly bean.”

“The first two albums I bought,” she recalls in an e-mail interview, “were *Maybe Tomorrow* by the Jackson 5 and *Osmonds* by the Osmonds. This was music designed to get young girls thinking about love and sex! I remember the inner sleeve of the Jackson 5 album had an offer to buy these stickers where the top of the Jacksons’ Afros were cut out so their faces looked like hearts. ‘Come on over here, little girl, I wanna KISS ya!’ Michael sang. Gateway drug!”

Powers found some further clues in fifth-grade Catholic school. “We had a hippie

teacher (she lasted only one year) who would play things like the Moody Blues for us in class. Someone brought in Elton John’s ‘The Bitch Is Back,’ and we’d play it on her record player before she got in the room.

“That and the paragraph in [Peter Benchley’s novel] *Jaws* where the main character and his girlfriend talk about how wet her panties got us thinking about sex, those were the level of our explorations of the profane. We were an innocent bunch at Our Lady of Fatima. At home, I had my Paul McCartney dreams.”

Steamy make-out sessions ensued eventually, with the bassist from Seattle’s Student Nurse, though she spent more time with a cello player, her first serious relationship.

“But I loved the local scene” in the early 1980s, she avows. “My favorite bands were my cousin’s Captain Beefheart-inspired group Fred, the very glamorous Mental Mannequin (Gordon Raphael, who’d go on to produce the

first Strokes album, was in that band, along with Barbara Ireland and Pony Maurice, women who were just the height of glamour to me), Audio Letter (that was Sharon Gannon, who went on to found Jivamukti Yoga in New York), and the multi-instrumentalist Sue Ann Harkey—arty improvisational music.

“I loved the weird stuff the most!” Powers continues. “So the scene I gravitated toward was pretty intellectual. More like an art scene than a down-and-dirty rock scene. The Blackouts, the Macs band... But I was always wanting to *talk* about music and art as well as dance. Music nerd from the get-go.”

Good Booty started out as a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame presentation on the shimmy, which eventually became a book chapter unto itself. She credits the Rock Hall’s Lauren Onkey and Terry Stewart for “pushing me off the diving board.”

She dug into research starting six years ago—“a deep archive is my idea of heaven”—swirling through the Schomburg and the Lincoln Center libraries in New York, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame archive in Cleveland, and the Special Collections at Fisk University in Nashville and the Center for Popular Music at Middle Tennessee State University.

“Most of the less familiar stories I tell in *Good Booty*, I found in those archives,” she explains. “Eddie Cochran’s fan letters. The unpublished manuscript in which Earl Tucker’s former dance partner talks about his licentious behavior backstage. The personal papers of Thomas A. Dorsey and Florence Mills. These artifacts opened so many doors for me.”

Mills, a black cabaret singer and comedian billed as the “Queen of Happiness,” stands out as the most crucial rediscovery within *Good Booty*. “She was a massive star,” relates Powers, “but because she left no recordings, she’s mostly forgotten. I was amazed to discover this deeply modern and still contemporary-feeling performer—discover, that is, through accounts of the time and photographs—who’s just unacknowledged. In general, I think music writers need to reach back before the rock-and-roll era to really understand all the streams that run into pop today.”

Her narrative turns over everyone from Mills to Miley Cyrus, Beyoncé with/without Destiny’s Child, Little Richard’s run-you-over gender-bending, the quiet case of gospel singer Willmer “Little Ax” Broadnax, who lived as a male after being designated a female at birth.

Asked to name the three most important artists from the story, though, Powers evokes “the African and Creole women and men whose names we don’t know, whose music and dance legacies still undergird so much American music, centuries after their forced journey to this country created our music culture; the jazz and blues women of the 1920s, who embodied joy and self-exploration in ways that artists still constantly reference today; and

the gospel quartets and queens of mid-century, who are deeply underappreciated, but who both elevated the music that became rock and soul and took it as deep as it could go.”

As for the paramount revelation, she laughs, “I’ll need readers to tell me that!” She continues, however, “Not so much a revelation, but an obvious truth: Any discussion of America’s erotic musical life must confront the complexities of American race relations. American music is African American music at its root. It’s the music of diaspora, of mixing under circumstances that have been both structurally oppressive and ideologically liberationist. The contradictions inherent

within the development of American culture define the music and our experience of it.”

With Trump pissing in the pool, I naturally had to ask who and what are giving us hope now.

“The open conversations going on about the gender spectrum, sexual harassment, women’s self-

possession, and how creativity and eroticism intersect are remarkable. From Perfume Genius to women in R&B like Syd and SZA to Kesha, to the amazing female-driven rock scene in Seattle (shout-out, Childbirth!), pop performers are just exploding the conversation. It’s a really exciting time, which predates the current political administration; music doesn’t necessarily operate in sync with electoral politics...

“In my epilogue, which centers on Beyoncé’s *Lemonade* and activism in the age of Black Lives Matter, I write that it can be tough to make room for bodily pleasure and delight in moments of great awareness about how racism and other forms of oppression do violence to people’s bodies. One of the main points of *Good Booty*, however, is to show that eroticism is a force that has helped people—especially marginalized people, including women, youths, LGBTQ people, and people of

color—sustain themselves in the face of terrible treatment throughout the history of this nation.”

Nevertheless, she asserts, “sexuality and sensuality are inherent aspects of being human. Erotic—the cultivation of healthy, life-affirming, mindful sexuality and sensuality, and of tender, loving emotional connections with others—is, as Audre Lorde says, the act of turning

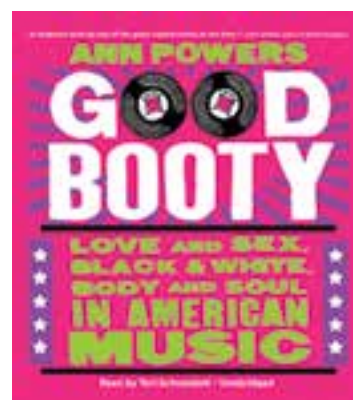
that kernel within ourselves into something that makes us better and can make society better, too.”

Is Powers’s own teen daughter reading *Good Booty*?

“Actually, she’s reading a lot of feminist literature now. It does embarrass her that her mom writes about sex, and the first paragraphs—about my own sexual identity and how music shaped it—embarrass her mightily.

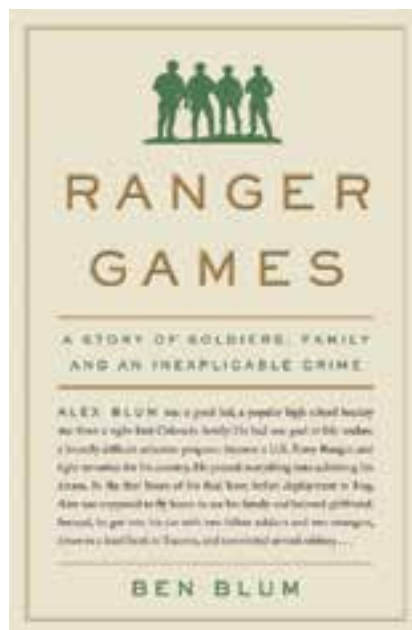
“Once she gets over that, I think she’ll enjoy the punk section and the 1990s stuff. I hope she sees how women are both central to popular music histories and often marginalized in the telling of those histories.” ■

Eroticism has helped people—especially marginalized people—sustain themselves in the face of terrible treatment.





BOOKS



NED & AYA ROSEN

A Math Prodigy Becomes a Writer in an Attempt to Understand His Cousin's Inexplicable Crime

Ben Blum's True-Crime Memoir *Ranger Games* Looks at What Elite Military Training Does to a Person's Mind

BY CHRISTOPHER FRIZZELLE

Alex Blum is a teenager known for his “shining all-Americanness,” his physical and mental fitness, his kindness to neighbors, his sense of humor, and his single goal in life: to become a US Army Ranger. The extraordinary difficulty of joining the ranks of this elite fighting force only feeds his obsession. He watches *Black Hawk Down* more times than he can count. He spends his downtime in high school reading army manuals. And after he makes it through the harrowing ordeal of Ranger training—which involves pouring Tabasco sauce in his eyes and stabbing his earlobes with a knife to stay up after days of sleep deprivation in freezing conditions—something about him is never the same.

Then, shortly before Alex deploys to Iraq, he robs a bank in Tacoma with two strangers and two other Rangers. After all his work to become a model American soldier, the crime makes so little sense that Alex's cousin, Ben, a childhood math prodigy now working on a biochemical dissertation at the University of Washington, begins an obsession of his own.

Ranger Games is the result of that obsession. After receiving a long letter written by Alex at the SeaTac Federal Detention Center about how the trials of Ranger training warped his mind, Ben seriously questions the aim and trajectory of his own career. He becomes “confounded by how little [his] growing technical expertise seemed to help [him] in understanding the forces that shape our lives.” His “lifelong impulse toward abstraction and schematization” strikes him suddenly as trivial, and his future of “scrabbling

for grant money to improve the efficiency of algorithms to accomplish things [he] didn't believe in” begins to feel unendurable.

He decides to abandon science, take up the humanities, and become a writer—with his cousin as his subject. In the beginning, he envisions his book as “the thrilling tale of a heroic soldier duped into robbing a bank and the ex-prodigy cousin using science to clear

his name.” But there are as many problems with that fantasy as there were with Alex's idealized vision of becoming

a Ranger in the first place. As Ben unearths more information about the events of that day, the complexities of the case develop into “some kind of narrative Bermuda Triangle, a vortex of interpretive subtleties where any effort at stable meaning was doomed to fail.”

Blum weighs down the prose in the first chapter with extraneous detail and interpretive flourish—drawing links between his subject and the ancient Jewish legend of the golem may not have been necessary—but keep going. The more you read, the more riveting the story gets. Moments that initially seem inessential turn out to be telling in unexpected ways. The author's encounter with the mastermind of the crime, one of Alex's superiors in the Rangers and a possible psychopath, is unforgettable. As is the scene where the whole family goes on the *Dr. Phil* show.

The main achievement and pleasure of the book is its overall construction. Every time we return to the scene of the bank robbery—which happens repeatedly—something new emerges. And 40 pages from the end of the book, everything changes again. ■

Ben Blum

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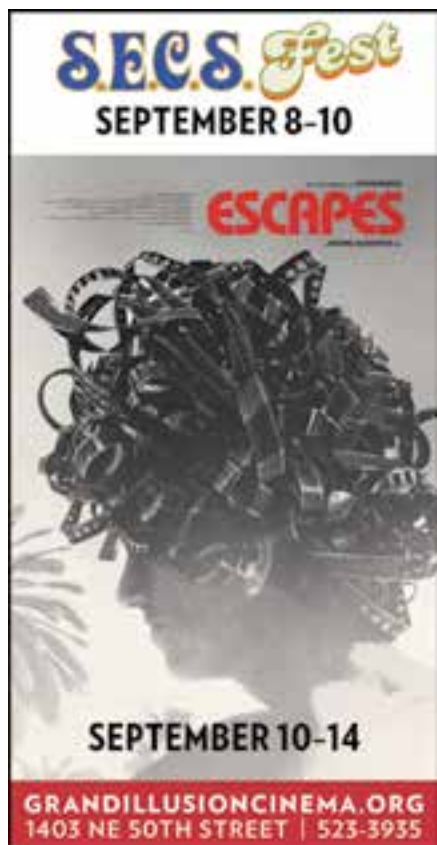
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FILM/TV

I Spent Six Days Stalking the Set of *Twin Peaks*

I was there to take paparazzi shots, but all I got were flesh wounds.

BY TIM RYAN



JAMES YAMASAKI

Mount Si. When I arrived, I saw half a dozen fans using point-and-shoot or phone cameras. Below, in the ravine, I saw David Lynch and three child actors and an adult actress and what I think was supposed to be a dead body. Lynch appeared stressed. He held his head with both hands. I was forced to shoot through foliage, rendering all my photos blurry, even though I have a professional-grade camera and a 400 mm lens.

When a crew member saw me, he ran over and said: "We would like for you to stop taking photos now. We don't allow that." After I promised not to make any noise or get in the way, he stepped in front of me to block my shots.

"Please don't do that," I said. "This is my legal right, and we all know that."

He pointed to two uniformed police officers and threatened to get them to "hold umbrellas in front of your camera." I pointed out how embarrassing and unprofessional it would be to ask uniformed officers to do that. Later, I contacted the Snoqualmie Police Department and an officer told me his staff would never block anybody on public property from taking pictures.

The crew member decided not to ask the cops for help, but he did get two other staffers to block my shots with umbrellas. By then the daylight was fading anyway, the sun was behind the clouds, and my blurry photos were only getting worse, so I left.

A few days later, the DirtFish Rally School in Snoqualmie, where you can take classes in motorsports, has been transformed into the *Twin Peaks* Sheriff's Department. The side of the mountain along the back of the location is too steep and overgrown with thorny bushes for me to get anywhere near the shoot.

Across the compound of a former lumber mill and a nearby lake, I see actors' trailers. That's where I need to go. Fifteen minutes later, I'm parked on a roadway adjacent to where I think the trailers are, but I can't see them anymore.

I put on my camouflage camera pack, jacket, and cap, and then head through high grass using a compass to stay on course. Half

an hour later, I'm out of the brush and next to a very exposed dirt road. No trailers. I keep walking. Twenty minutes later, I turn a corner and there they are, within 100 feet of where I'm standing.

But I'm standing in a wide-open space. Way too exposed. Support staff and some actors I don't recognize are milling around chatting or reading from scripts. I'm six-foot-two—it's hard to make myself small.

So is this how it ends for me? Really? I'm lying facedown, butt up, legs splayed across a muddy slope that's covered with thorny blackberry bushes. Dozens of tiny thorns are pressing into my legs, chest, and scalp.

I'm stuck. The slightest movement to extricate myself from the tangles encourages the thorns to dig even deeper into me. And I don't want to slide any farther, face forward, down this slope.

I can feel a small drop of blood roll down my nose to my lips and settle on my chin. I'm completely unable to free my arms to wipe it away.

For a long time, I just lie there, pondering my life in the paparazzi business.

It's 2015. I'm in Snoqualmie to try to take—well, sneak—photos of the *Twin Peaks* production. This is my first assignment since relocating to Seattle from Hawaii. I've snapped photos of celebrities like Rihanna and Kim Kardashian that have appeared in places like *Us Weekly* and *People*. The more exclusive a photo is, the more it sells for. *Twin Peaks*' popularity could translate into some serious cash for good images, and its filming

locations were a poorly kept secret, largely because of the production size (big crew, many actors, dozens of trucks) and the mystic omnipresence of the show in the mountain towns of Snoqualmie and North Bend.

Over the years, I've been harassed regularly by productions to stop taking photos. I've had crew members hold open umbrellas in front of me to block my shots. I've been threatened with arrest. All that's just intimidation, since there is no law preventing anyone from taking photos of a shoot if it takes place on public property.

But I've never been trapped in blackberry bushes before. Hawaii is not like the Pacific Northwest.

The blackberry incident happens a few days in, so let me back up. On my first day, I got a tip *Twin Peaks* was filming at a Snoqualmie River bridge near the base of

***Twin Peaks*' popularity could translate into some serious cash, and its filming locations were a poorly kept secret.**

I hear a vehicle approaching, but if I run down the road to get back to the tall grass, I know I'll be seen. My only option is to dive into a blackberry thicket. There's a ground-level tunnel in the thicket I crawl into just as a van carrying cast members rushes by.

A moment later, a pickup carrying two large men goes by. When I look back, I can see that the driver and passenger are looking toward the thicket. Toward me. The pickup slows down and the passenger door opens and someone steps out holding a folding chair, setting up just 50 feet from where I am lying.

I can't move because they're onto me, and also because I'm entangled in branches and thorns. My sweat attracts mosquitoes and flies. There are spiderwebs everywhere.

I lie my head on the moist ground, close my eyes, and evaluate my life. I'm an idiot for doing this. What am I doing here?

It's nearly an hour before the pickup truck returns to retrieve the passenger-turned-guard, and then they're gone. By now the road is filled with passenger vans carrying actors. Another van is transporting David Lynch!

I still can't walk out onto the road without being seen. In front of me, I can see filtered daylight at the opposite end of the blackberry tunnel. I'm on my stomach. It's impossible for me to be upright even a little, even in a squatting position, because of the thick vegetation. So I make like G.I. Joe, inching forward on my belly, at a 60-degree angle, head down, using my arms and feet to push me forward.

I have to stop repeatedly to unstick myself from the thorns. At the end of the tunnel, I'm greeted by another steep slope also covered in vegetation.

I try to roll to the side but the slope gives way. I tumble over rotting logs, moss, and

dead branches into an even thicker thicket. (Yes, I do protect my camera gear!) I can't believe how thorny this thicket is. I feel like a human pincushion. Thorns are piercing through my pants, shirt, and jacket. There are more tiny drops of blood.

I use a branch to push a part of the thicket aside and inch my way downhill, toward a little lake in the distance. The shoreline of the lake, I discover, is mostly compacted mud filled with reeds, cattails, and fallen logs. I walk through the wetness. A quarter mile away, I spot an old wooden shed atop a short pier. That's my goal. That's the only way out of here I can see.

I walk gingerly over crumbling logs in the muddy flats. I'm shaking and thirsty and I nearly fall several times. But the entire hillside above the lake is covered in brambles, so there's no way I could get through that.

I get to the pier. There are wooden braces connected to the pilings. I shimmy along the braces until I can reach a support beam and pull myself over it, and then I pull myself over the next beam. After two more beams, I swing one leg up onto the walkway and, with 30 pounds of camera gear on my back, pull myself onto the platform.

Somehow I manage to do it without dying.

Walking back to my truck, I call my dermatologist to get an emergency appointment. My face has a dozen tiny scabs from the thorn pricks.

"What happened to your face?!" my dermatologist shrieks when I get to her office. "Gosh, your poor nose."

I give her a brief summary of what I've just been through.

"Wow, what an exciting life you lead," she says, treating a face that will still have three pustules on it a month later. "So is David Lynch a really nice guy?" ■

**I can't move
because they're
onto me, and also
because I'm
entangled in
branches and
thorns.**


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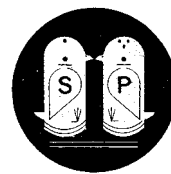
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CHOW



DIN TAI FUNG *Parcels of dough with soup and meat inside.*

JENNIFER RICHARD

The Ugly Dumpling

Searching for the Best Soup
Dumplings Around

BY NAOMI TOMKY

Before international dumpling chain Din Tai Fung opened its first local outlet in 2010, nobody in Seattle made soup dumplings worth eating. Sometimes xiao long bao, as soup dumplings are called in Chinese, would spend a short spell on some menu or another, but they would quickly disappear when it was clear that the quality wasn't up to snuff. These dumplings require precision. No one before Din Tai Fung was doing it—or, at least, doing it right.

As a food and travel writer, I remember friends asking if I was excited for soup dumplings when the famed Din Tai Fung first came to town. And I was excited—not for Din Tai Fung specifically, but because it was a jumping-off point: the first, I hoped, of many soup dumpling shops to come. Now, seven years after the first Din Tai Fung opened, Seattle has achieved what I'd always hoped: a competitive soup dumpling scene, one widespread enough that even the worst soup dumplings I've sampled are better than anything we had pre-Din Tai Fung.

I set out to find the latest and greatest in Seattle's soup dumpling scene. This meant starting at the highly Instagrammable **Peony Kitchen** (10317 Main St, #100, Bellevue), which opened in March on Old Bellevue's Main Street. "A taste of old China and modern Chinese cuisine," the description promised. The sleek, highly designed room had an air of elegance that matched the service—and the price tag. For \$14, I ordered up the "five flavor xiao lung bao," or 10 dumplings in a rainbow of colors and, supposedly, flavors.

Unfortunately, little set these dumplings

apart. Sure, I could sense an underlying flavor in each one—from the bright yellow cheese dumpling to the black seafood one—but the hints of ginseng (in the green dumpling) or hot and sour (in the red) made little impression. I was prepared for subtlety, but not for these underwhelming dumplings. The wrappers were chewy, drying out before we finished, and the soup lacked flavor. So much effort seemed to be put into the looks, but so little into the taste. This pattern was repeated in other dishes we ordered, including a particularly bland chicken buried in useless peppers.

Disappointed in my first stop, I headed to Issaquah's **Dough Zone Dumpling House** (1580 NW Gilman Blvd, Issaquah), the newest location for the four-store Eastside chain. While the group's rumored International District shop has yet to open, I admired how Dough Zone has matured from its early days. While the owners behind the stores have always made clear their intentions to be multi-unit, the polished design, professional-looking menus, and crisp service made it clear that they've started to nail down the formula. But had they nailed down the dumplings, which were \$9.50 for 10? If looks were everything, I would have found my winner. The uniformly unmarred purses sagged gently, the dull matte of the skin was just barely translucent, and the pleating was consistent. As I bit in, the broth rushed out pleasantly. They were good. But they weren't great. The skin was a little thick, coming to a rubbery knob at the top, and the meat a little chewy. While I would happily return to any of the locations for my favorite soup dumpling cousin sheng jian bao (what they call the jian

bun here) or a bowl of noodles, I left still wishing for a better soup dumpling.

It was time to try the gold standard, the one that started it all (here, anyway). Like Dough Zone, **Din Tai Fung** (600 Pine St, Suite 403) just opened its fourth local shop, this one in Pacific Place mall downtown. Arriving at 11:30 a.m. on a Thursday, I beat the lunch line and was seated immediately. It felt eerily similar to Dough Zone—I have no doubt the two look to each other for tricks and tips. The dumplings, too, were familiar: In my own reference photos, I had to double-check dates to remember which picture-perfect baskets came from which place, though at Din Tai Fung I coughed up a few more dollars for them (\$12.25 for 10 dumplings). Still, like those at Dough Zone, these dumplings lacked the beguiling marriage of textures that makes them such a popular item—and so difficult to make. Within minutes, parts of the dough began to harden. By the time I'd paused to eat some of the better items on the table (rice cakes, green beans, wontons), the tops of the soup dumplings were gluey and the tips solid, a sign that the skin was too thick around the edges.

I have eaten many soup dumplings in this town over the years, and I knew there was only one place left that could prove that Seattle isn't settling for mediocre imitations in fancy, well-marketed packages. But when I sat down to lunch at Bellevue's **Dim Sum Factory** (4092 Factoria Blvd SE, Bellevue), I was concerned by what I saw. Opened in 2014, the Factoria mall location is the sister restaurant of what was once my favorite dim sum restaurant in Seattle—Top Gun, which is now in Bellevue. But I was dubious of the shiny-skinned serving of soup dumplings that sat in front of me (\$9.99 for eight). The dumplings bore the frazzled gleam of a



JENNIFER RICHARD

native Seattleite on the third 90-degree day in a row: They looked tired, nearly collapsed under the weight of what was inside. Then I ate one; a flood of soup sprang out. The filling yielded and the dough stayed soft, even as I took a break to dig into turnip cakes. At the end of the meal, I popped a still-juicy, still-pliable dumpling in my mouth, impressed—but not as impressed as I would be the next day, when I reheated them to the same effect.

Looks, as the saying goes, are not everything. Besides, I didn't set out to find the most Instagrammable soup dumplings around; I set out to find the best. Dim Sum Factory might not have perfect pleats and rainbow-colored dumplings, but what they do have is the best-tasting soup dumpling in town. ■

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY
BY ROB BREZSNY

For the Week of September 6

ARIES (March 21–April 19): You're half-intoxicated by your puzzling adventures—and half-bewildered, as well. Sometimes you're spinning out fancy moves, sweet tricks, and surprising gambits. On other occasions you're stumbling and bumbling and mumbling. Are you really going to keep up this rhythm? I hope so, because your persistence in navigating through the challenging fun could generate big rewards. Like what, for example? Like the redemptive transformation of a mess into an asset.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): "Free your mind and your ass will follow," sings funk pioneer George Clinton in his song "Good Thoughts, Bad Thoughts." And what's the best way to free your mind? Clinton advises you to "be careful of the thought-seeds you plant in the garden of your mind." That's because the ideas you obsess on will eventually grow into the experiences you attract into your life. "Good thoughts bring forth good fruit," he croons, while "bullshit thoughts rot your meat." Any questions, Taurus? According to my astrological analysis, this is the best possible counsel for you to receive right now.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): James W. Loewen wrote a book called *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*. He said, for instance, that during the Europeans' invasion and conquest of the continent, it wasn't true that Native Americans scalped white settlers. In fact, it was mostly the other way around—whites scalped Native Americans. Here's another example: The famous blind and deaf person Helen Keller was not a sentimental spokesperson for sweetness and light, but rather a radical feminist and socialist who advocated revolution. I invite you to apply Loewen's investigative approach to your personal past, Gemini. The coming weeks will be an excellent time to uncover hidden, incomplete, and distorted versions of your history and correct them.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): Roger Hodge writes books now, but when he worked for *Harper's* magazine, he had an unusual specialty. He gathered heaps of quirky facts and assembled several at a time into long sentences that had a nutty poetic grace. Here's an example: "British cattle have regional accents, elephants mourn their dead, nicotine so-bers drunk rats, scientists have concluded that teenagers are physically incapable of being considerate, and clinical trials of an 'orgasmatron' are under way in North Carolina." I'm offering Hodge as a worthy role model for you in the coming weeks, Cancerian. Be curious, miscellaneous, and free-flowing. Let your mind wander luxuriantly as you make unexpected connections. Capitalize on the potential blessings that appear through zesty twists and tangy turns.

LEO (July 23–Aug 22): In Japan you can buy a brand of candy that's called The Great Buddha's Nose Snot. Each piece consists of a rice puff that resembles the Buddha's nose filled with bits of brown sugar that symbolize the snot. The candy-making company assures customers that eating this treat brings them good luck. I invite you to be equally earthy and irreverent about your own spiritual values in the coming days. You're in a prime position to humanize your relationship with divine influences, to develop a more visceral passion for your holiest ideals, to translate your noblest aspirations into practical, enjoyable actions.

VIRGO (Aug 23–Sept 22): Will a routine trip to carry out an errand take you on a detour to the suburbs of the promised land? Will you worry you're turning into a monster, only to find the freakishness is just a phase that you had to pass through on your way to unveiling some of your dormant beauty? Will a provocative figure from the past lead

you on a productive wild-goose chase into the future? These are some of the possible story lines I'll be monitoring as I follow your progress in the coming weeks.

LIBRA (Sept 23–Oct 22): Let's meet in the woods after midnight and tell each other stories about our origins, revealing the secrets we almost forgot we had. Let's sing the songs that electrified our emotions all those years ago when we first fell in love with our lives. Starlight will glow on our ancient faces. The fragrance of loam will seep into our voices like rainwater feeding the trees' roots. We'll feel the earth turning on its axis and sense the rumble of future memories coming to greet us. We'll join hands, gaze into the dreams in each other's eyes, and dive as deep as we need to go to find hidden treasures.

SCORPIO (Oct 23–Nov 21): I don't usually recommend giving gifts with strings attached. On the contrary, I advise you to offer your blessings without having any expectations at all. Generosity often works best when the recipients are free to use it any way they see fit. In the coming weeks, however, I'm making an exception to my rule. According to my reading of the omens, now is a time to be specific and forceful about the way you'd like your gifts to be used. As an example of how *not* to proceed, consider the venture capitalist who donated \$25,000 to the University of Colorado. All he got in return was a campus restroom named after him. If you give away \$25,000, Scorpio, make sure you at least get a whole building named after you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22–Dec 21): Now that you're getting a taste of what life would be like if you ruled the world, I'll recommend a manual. It's called *How to Start Your Own Country* by Erwin S. Strauss. (Get a free peek here: tinyurl.com/YouSovereign.) You could study it for tips on how to obtain national sovereignty, how to recruit citizens, and how to avoid paying taxes to yourself. (P.S. You can make dramatic strides toward being the boss of yourself and your destiny even without forming your own nation.)

CAPRICORN (Dec 22–Jan 19): There was a time when not even the most ambitious explorers climbed mountains. In the western world, the first time it happened was in 1492, when a Frenchman named Antoine de Ville ascended to the top of Mont Aiguille, using ladders, ropes, and other props. I see you as having a kinship with de Ville in the coming weeks, Capricorn. I'd love to see you embark on a big adventure that would involve you trying on the role of a pioneer. This feat wouldn't necessarily require strenuous training and physical courage. It might be more about daring creativity and moral courage.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20–Feb 18): Science fiction proposes that there are alternate worlds alongside the visible one—hidden, yes, but perhaps accessible with the right knowledge or luck. In recent years, maverick physicists have given the idea more credibility, theorizing that parallel universes exist right next to ours. Even if these hypothetical places aren't literally real, they serve as an excellent metaphor. Most of us are so thoroughly embedded in our own chosen niche that we are oblivious to the realities that other people inhabit. I bring these thoughts to your attention, Aquarius, because it's a favorable time to tap into those alternate, parallel, secret, unknown, or unofficial realms. Wake up to the rich sources that have been so close to you, but so far away.

PISCES (Feb 19–March 20): I'm always in favor of you cultivating a robust relationship with your primal longings. But I'll be rooting extra hard for you to do that during the next 11 months. I hope you will dig deep to identify your primal longings, and I hope you will revere them as the wellspring of your life energy, and I hope you will figure out all the tricks and strategies you will need to fulfill them. Here's a hint about how to achieve the best results as you do this noble work: Define your primal longings with as much precision as you can, so that you will never pursue passing fancies that bear just a superficial resemblance to the real things. ■



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Carolyn Law (11/7)
creates community art
about climate change



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Brooklyn Raga Massive (9/23)
plays tribute to John Coltrane



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Max Tegmark (9/27)
takes us to the
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Dr. Hallee Fischer-Wright (9/25)
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Tali Sharot (10/1)
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PERSON OF INTEREST

Nico Cox

Antiquarian Horologist

INTERVIEW BY AMBER CORTES
PHOTO BY STEVE KORN

What does an antiquarian horologist do?

It's a cross-disciplinary trade. I mostly work with antique clock or watch based objects that perform specific functions. Anything from making a facsimile of a living thing, called an automaton, to a musical box. Or even small watches that have music components or automata on the dial—basically I specialize in complicated antique mechanical objects.

How did you first get interested in this?

As a child, I collected music boxes and kitschy stuff that my grandmother gave me from post-holiday inventory sales. Snow globes or little scenes that had a music box in the bottom. I was never a fan of the outside part—I would always take the mechanisms out of the bottom and chuck the rest of it. It was really quite special, seeing everything working, seeing how delicate it was, and fragile. Producing something that was so tangible and beautiful to me, I got a lot of comfort out of that.

What's so magical to you about these mechanized machines from long ago?

These objects hold an incredible weight. You're looking at these things, and you're

trying to cipher: *How did they do this? Who designed this?* And you think about the minds that were developing this technology, about how they had half the resources or maybe even fewer than we have today. They didn't have electricity! They were cutting wheels using a foot pedal. Yet we're struggling to reverse-engineer some of the stuff they were doing. So, for me, seeing the craftsmanship and dedication that people put into this work—these objects provide evidence to me of what is beautiful and good in this world. It's tangible evidence that there is something greater in our nature, and you can strive to do beautiful things outside of yourself just for the sake of making something that makes people happy. It's really something quite spectacular. ■



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'Decoding the Secrets of the Air Around Us'
Bathhouse Theater, Greenwood

(9/7) Daniel Handler

with **Sherman Alexie**
'All the Dirty Parts'
Temple De Hirsch Sinai, Capitol Hill

(9/8) Ann Powers w/ Riz Rollins

'Love and Sex, Black and White, Body and Soul in American Music'
The Summit on Pike, Capitol Hill

(9/9) Saturday Family Concerts:

The Not-Its!

Freeway Park, Downtown

(9/9) Town Hall Seattle,

Gage Academy of Art and
Winston Wächter Fine Art present
Zaria Forman

'Antarctica'

Winston Wächter Fine Art, Downtown

(9/10) Saturday Family Concerts:

Dar Williams w/ Rebecca Saldaña

'A Thousand Small Towns'
Rainier Arts Center, Columbia City

(9/11) John Nichols

'Horsemen of the Trumpocalypse'
The Summit on Pike, Capitol Hill

(9/12) Jonathan White

'The Science and Spirit of the Ocean'
University Lutheran Church, U District

(9/13) Vanessa Grigoriadis

with Claire Dederer

'Sex, Power and Consent on Campus'
University Lutheran Church, U District

(9/20) Town Hall Seattle, MIT

Enterprise Forum, & Seattle University
Cyber-Physical Resiliency and Security

Seattle University Student Center, Capitol Hill

(9/21) Bob Sutton

'How to Deal with People Who Treat You Like Dirt'
Impact Hub Seattle, Downtown

(9/23) Global Rhythms Series

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